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INSIDE
EIGHT PAGES FROM SUNDAY'S
The New York Times
WEEKLY REVIEW

70 wounded in Ethiopian immigrant demo

BILL HUTMAN and BATSHEVA TSUR

THOUSANDS of Ethiopian immigrants clashed with police outside the Prime Minister's Office yesterday, in one of the most violent demonstrations Jerusalem has seen in recent years. More than 70 people were hurt.

Police used tear gas, rubber bullets, and stun grenades to break up the protest. One demonstrator was seriously wounded, after apparently being clubbed in the head by a policeman. A policeman was wounded in the eye by a stone.

The other wounded were reported suffering from only minor injuries, mostly tear gas inhalation. About half the wounded were policemen. Five demonstrators were detained, but released by the end of the day-long protest.

"Today the anger, built up from all the years of being lied to and expected to remain quiet, is being expressed," said Addisu Messala, head of the Unified Ethiopian Immigrants' Organization.

The protest was sparked by last week's revelation that the country's blood banks discard most blood donated by Ethiopian immigrants, because members of this community are 50 times more likely to be HIV carriers than other Israelis.

Protesters threw stones and bottles, beat policemen with umbrellas, and vandalized parked cars.

At one point, the stone- and bottle-throwing forced many policemen to run for cover inside the Prime Minister's Office compound, as did the tear gas that turned on them with the wind.

"Look how we're being treated today. Would the police use tear gas against other groups? Only against us they think it's all right to use tear gas," Messala said.

Prime Minister Shimon Peres agreed to meet with Messala and other community leaders during a lull in the protest, and accepted their demand to set up a commission of inquiry to look into the immigrants' complaints.

Peres also issued an apology on behalf of the entire government for the slight to the community caused by the blood policy. But he also criticized the immigrants for the violence displayed during the demonstration.

The meeting was attended by Absorption Minister Yair Tzaban, Health Minister Ephraim Sneh, Internal Security Minister Moshe Shahal, Chief of General Staff Lt-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, and Police Insp.-Gen. Assaf Hefetz, as well as members of the Ethiopian community, led by Messala, and several *kessim*.

Despite the violence outside, the meeting's atmosphere was reportedly cordial. There were moments of tension, however, as the community members demanded that Peres fire Sneh, saying he was responsible for authorizing the order to discard Ethiopian blood. But Peres was clearly not going to give in, an observer said.

Jerusalem police chief Cmdr. Arye Amit said police used tear gas when they believed there was a danger of the protesters breaking into the Prime Minister's Office. Police later also admitted to using rubber bullets and stun grenades.

"The protesters were completely out of control," Amit said. "It was like the intifada all over again."

Hefetz said many policemen were injured because they demonstrated restraint. "We should have been tougher," Israel Radio quoted him as saying.

The Prime Minister's Office, a multi-storied building surrounded by a fence, was under siege for most of the day by a crowd of demonstrators police estimated at between 8,000 and 10,000.

Border policemen stood atop the building and a police helicopter flew over the crowd. A water cannon and mounted policemen quickly proved useless in breaking up the protest.

"Stop the racism against black Jews," and "We are not viruses; we are black humans," were among the signs held by the protesters.

"I want the blood I donated over the last three years back," said Gideon Getahu, 25, of Karmiel. Getahu carried a club, that he said he would use to defend himself against police.

Another protester, his face covered with an Ethiopian flag, chanted: "Stop the racism," as he marched around holding a Magen David Adom blood donor's card in his hand.

In Washington, the Anti-Defamation League called on the government to exhibit sensitivity in dealing with the Ethiopian community.

"We understand the problem

(Continued on Page 2)



(Brian Hendler)

Policemen run for cover during yesterday's demonstration by Ethiopian immigrants outside the Prime Minister's Office.

Aloni slams Meretz colleagues, future plans a mystery

SARAH HONIG

COMMUNICATIONS Minister Shulamit Aloni refused to tell her party colleagues last night whether or not she would be running against them in the upcoming elections.

Aloni delivered a carping, acerbic speech at a tense meeting of the Citizens Rights Movement council in Ramat Efal. The CRM, which Aloni founded in 1973, is Meretz's central component party.

In her address, Aloni settled many long emotional and personal accounts, but the bottom line was that she would not run for Knesset on the Meretz ticket or fight to retain the party's leadership.

However, Aloni did not promise to support Meretz in the upcoming campaign or say she would be quitting politics for good. Thus, she left open the possibility that she might set up a rival list.

The meeting was the first CRM forum in a long time that was attended by both Aloni and her rival, Environment Minister Yossi Sarid. On previous occasions both made sure not to be in the room together at the same time.

While she clearly aimed many of her barbs at Sarid, Aloni carefully refrained from mentioning him by name.

But Aloni did say that she "no longer felt comfortable or welcome" in the party she founded because of the "evil and tormenting people I found there, people in whose company I could not sit."

Aloni complained about "those in Meretz who went to the press and called me stupid, who said I don't function any more and who argued that I am only of value to the opposition. They made me look like someone who is ludicrous and a chatterbox."

But despite all that, Aloni contended, her "ideology was and remains the ideology of Meretz. I never deviated from the Meretz way and yet I found myself all alone, isolated and abandoned."

She repeated her insistence that Meretz had forsaken the cause of civil rights.

"The argument that these had to be sacrificed for peace does not hold water. We sacrificed so much for the cause of peace and it would

(Continued on Page 2)

The insult was too much to bear

BACKGROUND

BATSHEVA TSUR

AN Amharic proverb says that "a large stomach can contain almost the entire world."

But, said Micha Feldman, an expert on Ethiopian Jewry, "there is no room in an Ethiopian stomach for wounded pride. There is no Amharic equivalent for 'I'll swallow my pride.' At that point, the stomach bursts."

The experts agree: It was the insult to the community that brought out the pent-up anger that turned to rage.

"Blood is symbolic. An insult to their blood is an insult to the community's identity," said Hebrew University anthropologist Dr. Shalva Weill. "It goes beyond AIDS. It's their physical identity which is being violated."

"The insult over the blood brought blood to the peoples' heads," said Feldman, who brought the immigrants here as an emissary and today oversees the integration of Ethiopian olim on behalf of the Interior Ministry. "For an Ethiopian, respect for him is cardinal. When Prime Minister Shimon Peres apologized, he hit the nail on the head. He helped to restore the loss in honor felt by the community.

"I hope the rest of the Israeli public will realize how sensitive the community is and how it was hurt, so that we can continue to build this fine fabric of integration between two societies which are such worlds apart."

Feldman said this is the second time the Ethiopian community has resorted to violence. In the early summer, stones were thrown at a demonstration in Be'erotayim.

"Some of the youths are more Israeli than Ethiopian when it comes to being gentle," he noted.

Weill agreed that youths took a central part in yesterday's demonstration. "The youths are highly motivated. It's more important for them to be part of Israeli society, to be accepted, than it is to get jobs or houses."

She believes the future is not clear – "it could go any way." But what is clear is that the community demonstrated its unity, its strength – and its electoral power.

'Six more inches and I could be dead'

EYEWITNESS

EVELYN GORDON

AFTER driving past the Ethiopian immigrants' demonstration yesterday, I believe I finally know what it feels like to be a settler. I now know what it feels like to have my car window shattered and my head narrowly missed by a potentially lethal rock – and how it feels to have the police not care at all.

At 3:20 p.m., I was on my way to the Supreme Court, as I am every day at about that time. As I drove down Rehov Ruppin past the demonstration, I suddenly heard a loud crash, and the inside of my car was covered with shattered glass. The window above the left rear door was completely gone, taken out by a rock bigger than my two fists. I was shaken by the knowledge that had the rock hit six inches farther forward, my head might have looked like my window does.

None of the dozens of policemen at the scene appeared to notice. A civilian who was standing nearby came over to see if I was hurt, and, when I said no, told me that I should get out of there. Instead, I tried to report the incident to a policeman on the spot, hoping that with prompt action, the perpetrator could be caught.

After three different policemen simply yelled at me and told me to go complain at headquarters in the Russian Compound, however, I gave up. I went to the Russian Compound, where a bored policeman was recording numerous similar complaints. In the five minutes it took me to fill out my form, three other people entered to complain of similar damage from the demonstrators.

All the complaints will no doubt be entered into some file to satisfy the bureaucracy. With the policemen at the site uninterested in searching for the perpetrators, however, it seems unlikely that they will ever be found. Apparently, the police don't care until blood is shed.

Peres: Progress made in talks with Syria, but no breakthrough

BATSHEVA TSUR and news agencies

ISRAEL and Syria made some progress on normalization and economic matters in their last round of talks in Maryland, but there was no breakthrough, Prime Minister Shimon Peres said yesterday.

The talks resume today after a weekend break.

Yesterday, US Middle East peace coordinator Dennis Ross met at his home for seven hours with the Israeli and Syrian delegation heads, Foreign Ministry Director-General Uri Savir and Ambassador Walid Mualem. No specific information on the session was available.

"There is progress. It is still not a breakthrough. We have not solved all the problems. It's always a matter of definition," Peres told Channel 1.

"It is correct that on the issue of normalization there is progress, on the economics issue there is progress," he said. "On the issue of security arrangements, talks have begun."

He refused to elaborate.

But he said time was short – given that both Israel and the US are to hold elections in the fall – and the work ahead long.

"I am a partner [to the idea] that there is a contradiction between the shortness of time and the seriousness and depth of the problems," Peres said.

Because of the wide gaps between the sides, the government is holding out little hope for real progress during Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to the region next week.

In Washington, it is already accepted that if there is no real progress in the next few weeks, the talks will be put on the back burner. But contacts, if not negotiations, between the sides will be maintained until after the US and Israeli elections, to prevent any regression from what has already been achieved.

At yesterday's cabinet meeting, the ministers heard the second part of a report from the IDF Intelligence Branch. No information was relayed to the media about its contents.

Peres is said to have rebuked Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak for expressing pessimism over the chances of reaching an agreement with Syria this year. According to Israel Radio, Peres said the IDF had also expected the agreement with Jordan to take a long time and had been surprised at how quickly the accord was reached.

The threat of Iranian non-conventional arms was also reportedly discussed.

Meanwhile, former OC Intelligence Uri Saguy told a gathering of the Council for Peace and Security that "in peace we will have to give up the Golan Heights. There will not be peace without a full withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

"Israel is holding a pathetic debate with the Syrians over the difference between the July 4, 1967 border and the international border," he said, adding that this argument indicates that the end result will be a full withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

Saguy also said that the peace with Syria will be no warmer than the peace with Egypt.

Police detain shooting suspect John du Pont

NEWTOWN SQUARE, Penn. (Reuter) – Millionaire John du Pont, suspected by police of killing Olympic wrestling gold medalist David Schultz, has been detained by police, local officials said yesterday.

"They got him," said Delaware County emergency spokesman Bill Lovejoy. "It's over and he is alive."

A Reuters photographer said Du Pont was brought to a local police station by a heavily-armed rapid response team.

Du Pont is alleged to have shot dead Schultz, who won a gold medal at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics in the freestyle 74 kg. class.

Schultz lived with his wife and family in a house on the grounds of Du Pont's 800-acre estate.

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Netanyahu aims to adapt party line to Oslo reality

SARAH HONIG

THE Likud central committee will soon take up chairman Binyamin Netanyahu's policy proposals, which he bills as "a clear, unambiguous alternative to the line pursued by the government."

Netanyahu said yesterday that deliberations are currently under way toward formulating this alternative. "What is planned is updating the platform," he said, while denying there is any thought to "an ideological rethinking. Our ideological beliefs are as unshakable as ever, and the issues have nothing to do with ideological steadfastness."

It is believed that Netanyahu h will make a tactical move to take into consideration changes already implemented under the Oslo accords, while concentrating on how to prevent future concessions.

While there is consensus within the party on the need to halt the continuation of the present process, there are differences of opinion about what to do about h what has already been done. A large group, led by former prime minister Yitzhak Shamir and MK Ze'ev Begin, refuses to reconcile itself to the facts created by the Labor government in the past two years.

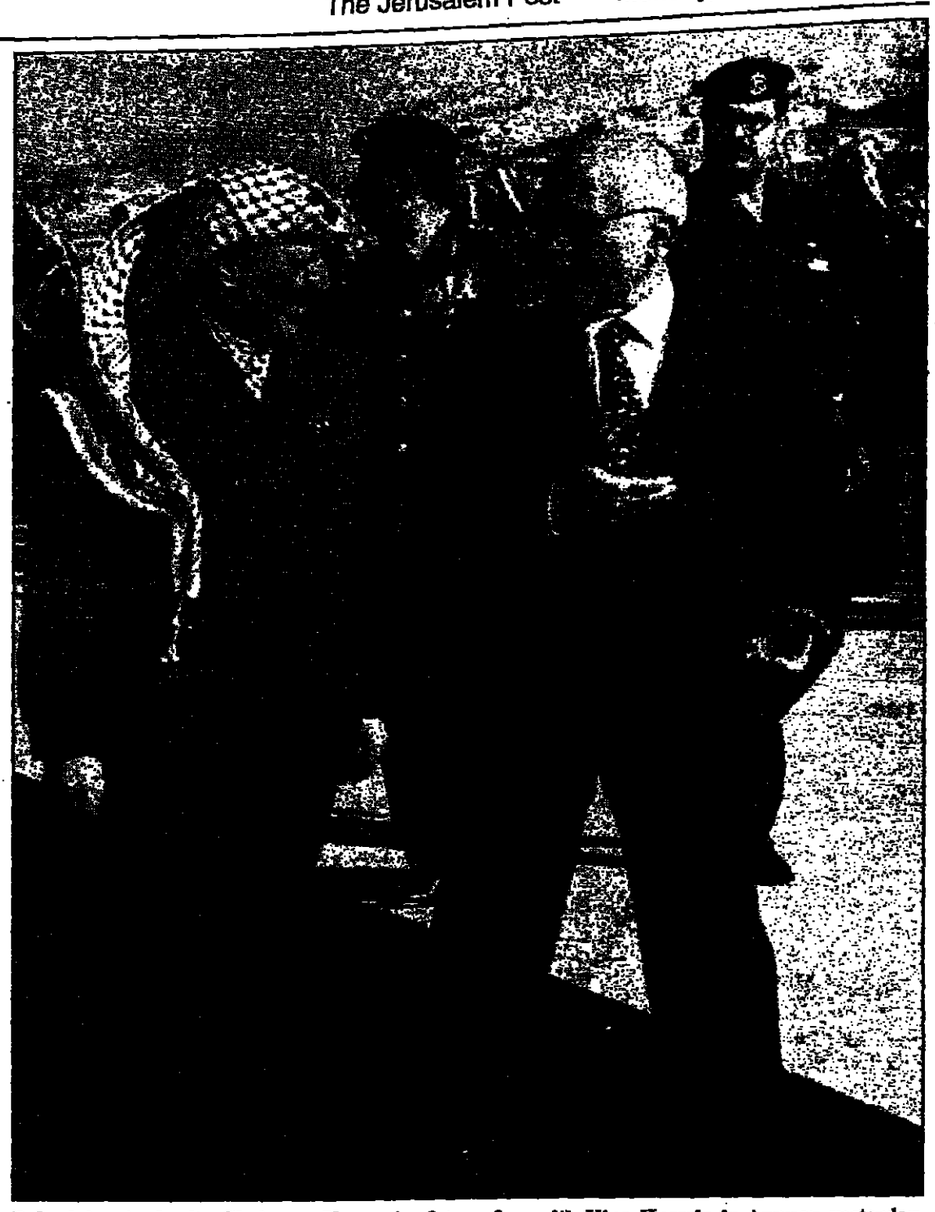
However, Netanyahu is likely to obtain a majority for his positions.

"The task clearly before us now is to preempt the establishment of a Palestinian state," Netanyahu said. "If Labor wins the coming elections, it is a certainty that the Palestinian state will come into the world, that Israel will cede every inch of the Golan, retreat to the shores of Lake Kinneret, and that Jerusalem will be divided. If the Likud is elected, there will be no Palestinian state and the autonomy will be contained, the Golan will remain in Israel's, hands and Jerusalem in its entirety will be Israel's capital.

"We are willing to talk to the Palestinians, as we talk to any Arabs, but we demand of any interlocutor that he fully accept Israel's right to exist. Of all I have seen thus far, the Palestinian Authority and [Yasser] Arafat have a long way to go.

"If the Palestinians do not convince us that they are a real partner for peace, and they don't seem intent on doing so, then they cannot be treated as a partner for peace."

But Netanyahu said he will "not send the army to reoccupy cities handed over to the PLO, though in Jerusalem I will close down the Orient House and all other PLO institutions and will see to it that no more territory is handed over to Arafat."



Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat confers with King Hussein in Amman yesterday. Hussein reaffirmed Jordan's support for Arafat's quest for an independent Palestinian state with east Jerusalem as its capital. (P Imm)

High Court: Netanyahu's revealing secret data protected by immunity

EVELYN GORDON

LIKUD chairman Binyamin Netanyahu should not be investigated for revealing a classified document to the Knesset, because the act was protected by his substantive immunity as an MK, the High Court of Justice ruled yesterday.

However, the court gave Attorney-General Michael BenYair 45 days to justify his refusal to investigate other possible suspects in the affair, such as the person who gave the document to Netanyahu.

The ruling was issued in response to two petitions, by MK Ran Cohen (Meretz) and Labor Party activist Shmuel Cohen. The petitions were filed in response to a Knesset debate on a no-confidence motion last June. Netanyahu, who presented the motion for the Likud, told the plenum that the government had retreated from three principles in its negotiations with Syria that it had previously said were absolute conditions for an agreement.

These principles were an unequal withdrawal of Israeli and Syrian forces away from the Golan, a continued IDF presence on Mount Hermon, and no foreign troops on the Golan.

Netanyahu added that he had a document proving that these were the government's instructions to the chief of general staff, then on his way to Washington for a meeting with his Syrian counterpart.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, who responded for the government, charged that Netanyahu's document was a "bluff," and said the Likud leader had probably written it himself.

In response to this charge, Netanyahu began quoting the relevant passages from the document.

The petitioners charged that Netanyahu had committed a criminal act by revealing the contents of a classified document. Ben-Yair replied that this might be so, but the act was protected by Netanyahu's substantive immunity as an MK. — Justices Aharon Barak, Theodor Orr, and Yitzhak Zamir agreed with Ben-Yair. In his verdict, Barak noted that the court has produced three conflicting opinions as to the proper test of whether substantive immunity applies. However, he said, Netanyahu's action meets all three of the tests.

Former chief justice Meir Shamgar, Barak noted, said the test was whether the alleged crime was committed "as an integral part of [the MK's] legitimate activity," whereas Justice Eliezer Goldberg said the test was whether the crime was "relevant to performance of [the MK's] job." It is clear that Netanyahu's action meets both these tests, Barak continued, since justifying a no-confidence motion is certainly an integral part of an MK's job, and the classified information was directly relevant to the subject of the motion.

Barak himself has proposed a much more difficult test: The crime must be "part of the natural risk to which any MK is subject." This, Barak explained, means that an MK cannot openly and premeditatedly violate the law, even for the sake of doing his job. However, he should be protected if, in the heat of a debate, he accidentally goes beyond what would normally be permitted and commits, for example, libel or criminal incitement. Otherwise, MKs would be afraid to speak for fear that they might cross the border into illegal speech.

Thus, under Barak's test, Netanyahu would not have been protected had he quoted from the document during his prepared opening speech. However, Barak said, he cannot be held liable for quoting the document as a spontaneous response to Peres. Netanyahu expressed satisfaction at the court's decision.

PA frees Hamas activists

JON IMMANUEL

THE Palestinian Authority has released between 10 and 16 Hamas activists as a prelude to new negotiations on conciliation and drafting a law governing municipal elections expected in May.

The elections, in which Hamas plans to compete, will elect municipal authorities across the areas governed by the PA.

On Friday, two Hamas leaders, Mohammed Shama and Dr. Mahmoud Zahar, met with PA Chairman Yasser Arafat; Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen), Jamil Sourani, and Salim Zaanoun, acting speaker of the Palestinian National Council. The group decided to form two committees, one to draft the election bill, and the other to follow up December's Cairo talks which ended without agreement on issues such as the stance Hamas would take concerning the "armed struggle" against Israel.

Zaanoun's presence sparked rumors that the PA might try to offer Hamas a place in the 465member PNC. In the past Hamas has demanded 40 percent of the seats, considerably more than its actual political strength.

Arafat met with members of the PNC in Jordan Saturday to persuade them to return for a crucial session on changing the covenant.

Most of the Hamas detainees released this weekend were junior activists, except for Ahmed Nimir, an imam from Khan Yunis who was arrested three months ago after he preached a sermon attacking the PA and Hamas leaders who favored negotiations with the PA.

In another meeting Saturday, the two Hamas leaders and Sayed Abu Musameh met with a PA security team including Preventive Security chief Mohammed Dahlan, military intelligence chief Musa Arafat, Gaza police chief Brig. Ghazi Jabali, North Gaza commander Brig. Saeb Ajez, and PA secretary Tayeb Abdel-Raheem.

After the Friday meeting, Yasser Arafat, gratified that Hamas did not disrupt the Palestinian Council elections, granted Hamas a license to open a new newspaper. The existing Hamas newspaper, *Al-Watan*, folded when its chief editor Imad Falouji broke ranks with Hamas and ran for a seat on the council with the Fatah list in North Gaza.

Falouji did not win a seat, but election results in North Gaza have not been finalized because of disputes concerning the counting of votes in two polling stations in Jabalya refugee camp. The polling in these two stations was repeated and the results are expected this week.

Hamas was also authorized to open a media bureau, which will include the newspaper and a spokesman's office.

Reuters, meanwhile, reported that the Palestinian Police identified the man who was killed yesterday when a bomb he was making exploded prematurely as Hamas member Ahmed Salem Abu Seif.

Levine: Hizbullah attacks drop slightly

DAVID RUDGE

THERE has been a slight drop in Hizbullah's attacks on the IDF in the security zone recently and a corresponding increase in those against the South Lebanese Army, OC Northern Command Maj. Gen Amiram Levine said yesterday.

Levine noted, however, that this was not preventing the extremist Shi'ite organization from cooperating with other organizations and helping them to carry out attacks against IDF targets.

He spoke to reporters during a presentation ceremony at Northern Command headquarters of certificates of merit to outstanding soldiers, for bravery in battle and exemplary duty in their specific fields. "Hizbullah, at the moment, is trying to hit the SLA more and a bit less the IDF. But it [Hizbullah] has sufficient levels of freedom to cooperate with other organizations and push them against the IDF, and it is doing this," said Levine.

He said Hizbullah was continuing to fire at IDF and SLA targets from inside villages north of the security zone. He said the IDF would act appropriately but would not be drawn into responding in a way that would escalate fighting in the region.

The award ceremony yesterday followed weekend fighting in the zone in which four Palestinian gunmen from Ahmed Jibril's PFLP-General Command were killed by IDF troops.

The gunmen had apparently intended to carry out a lethal closerange operation against IDF and SLA troops in the zone. Maps and documents found on their bodies indicated that the target area had been Marjayoun.

Fighting continued inside the security zone yesterday. Reports from Lebanon said there were heavy exchanges between IDF and SLA gunners and gunmen in the Ali Tahr hill region in the eastern sector of the zone.

In the evening there were reports of one or more heavy explosions close to the border, in the Upper Galilee region, although there was no confirmation that anything fell inside Israeli territory.

The army spokesman said it appeared the blasts were from mortar rounds which had been fired at IDF and SLA positions inside the zone.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Banned Brooklyn rabbi suing government

Abraham Hecht, the renegade Brooklyn rabbi banned from entering Israel, reportedly is planning a multi-million-dollar lawsuit against the government and several Israeli officials for defamation. Interior Minister Haim Ramon, who is one of the officials named, last month issued an order barring seven Americans involved in extreme right-wing activities from Israel. Hecht, the long-time rabbi of the Syrian community of Brooklyn, generated a fire storm last June when he implied it would be acceptable to kill the prime minister. He is currently on suspension from his congregation and is expected to be retired. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

President of Albania arrives today

President Sali Berisha of Albania arrives today for a three-day visit. After being welcomed by President Ezer Weizman, Berisha will meet Prime Minister Shimon Peres. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

CORRECTION

Ivan Shiran recounted his experiences in the Beit Lid article which appeared on Friday and not as published.

Two killed, 9 hurt on roads

DAVID RUDGE AND Itim

TWO people were killed and and nine injured in road accidents yesterday.

Suwafini Ghaniya, 20, of Deir Hanna in the Galilee, was killed and two others seriously injured when their car overturned on a curve near the turnoff to Turan in the Galilee early yesterday morning.

Lester Leslie, 81, of Netanya, was killed when he was struck by a car while crossing the street at a crosswalk. Police said the driver, who was speeding, had his license revoked for 90 days.

Seven people were injured, three moderately and four lightly, in an accident at the Nahshon junction, between Beit Shemesh and Ramle.

Meanwhile, police are appealing for witnesses to an accident on the Coastal Road near the southern entrance to Haifa at around 8 on Saturday night.

Police said a furniture truck swerved out of its lane, causing a car to take evasive action. The car overturned and a woman was seriously injured and three other people lightly hurt.

The truck did not stop. Police said there was a sign in Hebrew on the truck reading "We are on the way to another satisfied customer."

Anyone who witnessed the accident or has since seen the truck is asked to contact the nearest police station.

ALONI

(Continued from Page 1)

have all been the same without these sacrifices," she said.

Despite her embittered, reproving tone, her speech received a standing ovation.

Later in the meeting, Sarid, in his address, strongly disagreed with Aloni about the party's civil rights record, citing a long list of legislation he claimed Meretz initiated in this Knesset.

He called on Aloni to stay active in Meretz, and to continue to support the party. He even shook her hand, an unusual gesture, given the state of their relationship in recent months.

Aloni later commented that she would "think about what he said."

Sarid is expected to succeed Aloni as Meretz's leader, amid charges by Aloni that he has undermined her.

Libya attacks Oman over ties with Israel

CAIRO (Reuter) – Libya attacked Oman yesterday for signing an agreement on establishing commercial interest sections with Israel, saying it was "disastrous" for the Arab world.

"The signing of this agreement with the enemy by Oman, the first Gulf state to undertake such a capitulationist step, is yet another disaster to beset the Arab nation," Libyan radio said in a commentary monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC). "Oman's signing of this agreement is part of the appalling concessions made by some Arabs on the path of surrender to the enemy of the Arab nation," the state-run radio said.

RIOT

(Continued from Page 1)

and the need to deal carefully with blood donations of Ethiopian Jews, but these problems can be handled with more sensitivity," the organization said in a statement.

Most major US television stations broadcast items on the demonstration.

Liat Collins adds:

The Ethiopian blood affair will be discussed in several different Knesset forums this week. The Labor faction is dedicating its weekly meeting to the subject today and the Immigration and Absorption Committee is holding a special session to review it.

"There can be no doubt that a terrible wrong has been done the Ethiopian Jewish community, which has proved its Zionism beyond question and made an important contribution to the state," said Labor faction chairman Ra'anan Cohen. "The Knesset cannot just ignore such a serious wrong to a valuable community."

Emanuel Zissman (Labor), chairman of the Immigration and Absorption Committee, said the committee would act to prevent the recurrence of such discrimination. Community leaders have been invited to the committee meeting. Education Committee chairwoman Dalia Itzik (Labor) sent a letter to State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat asking her to investigate the matter. The subject is also expected to be raised in the plenum.

Suspects allegedly held without charges in Bethlehem jail

JON IMMANUEL

A MAN arrested two weeks ago has been held in a damp Bethlehem cell the size of a bed and beaten up while the Palestinian Police keeps changing the charges against him, his family said.

In another case, it was claimed that a man called Ala Aza was held upside down from a ceiling in Bethlehem jail and beaten. He was released after two days.

These cases came to light Saturday during a meeting of families of the arrested men, human rights lawyers and elected Bethlehem district members of the new Palestinian Council.

Salah Taamari, an elected council member was quoted as saying, "These things must not be done to our people. This abuse of power is the result of many years of occupation."

Up to 10 men have been arrested, subjected to various beatings and released, all except for Nael Hitmas, 22, said sources, who said they believed Israel was behind the orders to arrest him.

Hitmas was arrested on January 16 after police claimed he was involved in the shooting of an Israeli near Rachel's Tomb. When they came to his home to arrest him they found only his father, brother and two friends. So they arrested them until Hitmas gave himself up. He has not been formally charged.

"His cell is 70 cm. by two meters. He was beaten during the first few days, but his health is better now," his father, Ahmed, said yesterday.

But others who saw him in the yard this weekend at Bethlehem's former army headquarters which now serve the Palestinian Police, said he appeared to have a swollen face, and was unkempt and unshaven. He also seemed unable to focus in daylight, as though he had spent long periods in the dark.

We deeply mourn the passing of our very dear friend

EZRA CATTAN ז"ל

(New York)

אוהב לומדי תורה, גומל חסד

Benefactor of Mevaseret Zion Educational Center

We express our condolences to the entire Cattan family.
Members of the Mevaseret Zion community may pay their respects to the deceased and his family, as the proccession passes Mevaseret Zion Educational Center, 50 Rehov Ha'oren, Mevaseret, at approximately 8:00 a.m. today.
The funeral will leave Yeshiva Shuvi Nefesh in Mea Shearim at 1:00 p.m., and will proceed to the cemetery in Sanhedria.

Directors, Staff, and Students of Kiryat Hinuch, Mevaseret Zion - Kol Mevaser

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Amir doing a better job than his lawyers

COMMENT

RAINE MARCUS

YIGAL Amir, a former law student, did a far better job representing himself than either of his lawyers at his trial yesterday.

Admonishing attorney Jonathan Ray Goldberg several times and scorning his knowledge of Israeli law, Judge Edmond Levy again intervened during proceedings and not only allowed, but also directed Amir to defend himself.

When Goldberg realized that he was totally unprepared, he told Judge Levy that he would need a team of lawyers.

Levy said he would do his best to appoint an additional lawyer, and would even assist in finding one. By law, the court is obliged to appoint a lawyer for a defendant facing a minimum 10-year prison sentence.

While Goldberg's idea of cross-examining prosecution witnesses consisted of banal technical questions, Amir was far more sophisticated and to the point.

When Dep.-Cmdr. Avi Cohen told the court he was certain that Amir used the word "murder," the defendant said: "I don't want to doubt your credibility, but I used the word 'manslaughter.'"

"I used the word 'injure'; you used the word, 'murder,'" replied Cohen.

While cross-examining Ch.-Supt. Motti Naftali, Amir asked him if he seemed like a "lunatic murderer."

"He seemed like a cold fish," Naftali told the court.

Amir has chosen his own line of defense: He did not mean to murder Rabin.

Judge loses patience with Amir's attorney

RAINE MARCUS

MONEY from the US intended to help fund Yigal Amir's defense is being blocked by the government here, Amir's lawyer, Jonathan Ray Goldberg, told Tel Aviv District Court yesterday.

As during previous hearings, Goldberg succeeded in incurring the wrath of Judge Edmond Levy for his apparent inability to defend his client.

"I have spent sleepless nights going over the evidence," shouted Levy.

"I don't understand why you are not well-versed in the evidence."

However, after much badgering, Levy agreed to consider financing expert defense witnesses, as long as Goldberg filed a formal request.

Scores of other objections raised during the hearing were repeatedly turned down by Levy, who eventually lost his patience and suggested that Goldberg be tried by the Israel Bar Association's disciplinary committee for "scandalous violation of ethics." He also threatened to charge him with court costs.

Amir's second lawyer, Mordechai Offri, officially resigned from the case yesterday.

"I took on this case on two conditions," said Offri. "The first was that the family would pay for all my expenses, which they haven't done. So far I have paid out of my own pocket for everything and haven't received a cent from them."

The second condition, said Offri, was that he would have the final say in how to conduct the defense.

Since the two lawyers' lines of defense did not correspond, Offri decided to quit.

"However I am convinced that Yigal did not mean to kill late prime minister Rabin," he concluded.

Witnesses put on the stand by prosecutor Penina Guy did not agree, and described Amir's "calm state of mind" and his admissions that he intended to murder Rabin.

The prosecution is expected to bring its last witnesses today, including Rabin's bodyguard Yoram Rubin, who was wounded by Amir.

The first witness, Chief Supt. Mordechai Naftali, head of Hayarkon sub-district's investigations division, where Amir was first taken after his arrest, described his shock at Amir's reaction when he told him that Rabin was dead.

"He said that he had arrived the square to execute the prime minister," said Naftali.

At this point, he added, Amir did not know of Rabin's death.

"Then I got a phone call from the sub-district commander [Ya'acov Shoval] who said: 'He was apparently successful.'

"I decided to get a confession, which he [Amir] dictated to me, and then tell him the premier was dead."

"When I told him, he did not move from his chair. 'Is he dead?' he asked.

"'Yes,' I replied.

"'In that case I have done my part,' replied Amir," said Naftali.

"I was shocked by his cool, and when I asked him if he regretted his actions, he replied that he didn't."

In a related development, Avi Richtman, the lawyer for Haggai Amir, who is accused of conspiring with his brother to assassinate Rabin, resigned yesterday, saying he had not been paid.

Woman thought she was melting: rare mental syndrome occurs here

JUDY SIEGEL

A 28-YEAR-OLD Israeli woman is one of the few people in the world to be diagnosed with a strange, but usually short-lived psychiatric syndrome that caused her to believe the world and parts of her body were "melting" and that she would live forever.

The rare illness, called Cotard Syndrome, is so obscure that it is not even listed in the the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders* – considered the psychiatrists' bible. Fewer than 20 cases have been authenticated in the world's medical literature over the past 20 years.

The case is described in the latest issue of *Harefuah*, the journal of the Israel Medical Association, by Drs. George Simovici and Arye Bauer of the Jaffa Community Mental Health Center.

The woman is unmarried and an only child who completed only elementary school. She lives in sheltered housing and works in a factory. Complaining of anxiety, she suddenly claimed witches had cast a spell on her; when she looked in the mirror, she saw herself without a nose. A computerized scan of her head showed physiological changes in her brain. She was treated with drugs and psychotherapy and her condition improved.

The authors note that most previous patients lived in an era before magnetic resonance imaging and other scanning techniques could disclose changes in brain function.



Germany's 29-year-old Minister of Youth Affairs Claudia Nolte (second from right) talks with new immigrants at the Nurim youth village, as her host, Jewish Agency Youth Aliya Department head Yehiel Leket (left) looks on. (Joe Malcolm)

Potential organ donors increase

JUDY SIEGEL

ABOUT 2,000 people registered as potential organ donors in December, compared with only 137 in October, the National Transplant Coordinating Center (NTCC) reported last week.

The NTCC said part of the increase was due to repercussions of Yitzhak Rabin's assassination, and the rest resulted from a major information campaign it started on December 11.

There are 74,000 potential donors on the list being kept by ADI, an organization founded in memory of a teenager who died for lack of a donor organ. The NTCC is planning to collect names of prominent Israelis who agree to make their registration with ADI known and publicize it as an example to others.

In 1995, 110 organ transplants were performed here using donations from 27 deceased donors (each of whom donated an average of four organs), plus 101 transplants from living donors. A total of 945 patients are still waiting for a transplant due to the shortage of organs. Of them, 801 (including 40 children) seek a kidney. The queue for kidneys is lengthening; at the end of 1994, there were only 677 people waiting for a kidney.

Twenty liver transplants were performed last year, along with 16 heart transplants and 56 kidney transplants, the NTCC said.

Meanwhile, Mazal Zubiv, a 12-year-old who suffered from cirrhosis of the liver, was recovering yesterday after undergoing a liver transplant. The Netivot girl, who celebrated her bat mitzva two weeks ago, had waited for a donor organ for three years.

Ilan's 'March of Dimes' tomorrow

JUDY SIEGEL

THE incidence of cerebral palsy, a motor nerve disorder that can cause spastic paralysis of the limbs and frequently retardation, is significantly more common in Druse and Arabs than Jews because of inbreeding.

This was disclosed by Dr. Shula Hermon, a pediatric neurologist at Sheba Hospital, who conducted the study on behalf of Ilan, the Israel Foundation for Handicapped Children. Ilan will tomorrow hold its annual "March of Dimes" fund-raising campaign by sending schoolchildren to homes around the country.

Hermon discovered that CP, which is caused by a permanent brain defect or an injury at birth or soon thereafter, is 1.43 times more common in Druse infants than in Jews, and 1.19 times more common in Arabs than in Jews. This is due to marriage of close relatives in these communities.

March of Dimes chairman Herzl Shekalim said the campaign aims at collecting at least NIS 3 million. Ilan runs a network of kindergartens and special schools, vocational training centers, rehabilitation units, sports centers and hostels for adults.

Lau: No religious justification for bloodshed

GREER FAY CASHMAN

THERE is no religious justification for bloodshed, Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Yisrael Lau told the opening 6th International Conference of the Jewish Media on Saturday night.

Lau said that to cite Halacha as a basis for the killing of Yitzhak Rabin was a grave distortion.

While Lau claimed that there were no authorized rabbis who had sanctioned the actions of Yigal Amir, Jewish Agency Chairman Avraham Burg charged that "there is a spiritual infrastructure which gives a *hechsher* to this kind of fundamentalism."

Prof. Ehud Sprinzak of the Hebrew University's Political Science Department described the assassination as "an act of desperation, not an act of power."

He said there are only a few dozen violent activists on the extreme right, and most of them are inclined to be violent toward Palestinians. Very few advocate hurting Jews. Even though their language is one of "rhetorical violence" he said, "they are not violent, they are people in crisis.'

In his address, Burg focused on Jewish survival "without an external enemy." He wondered whether "we have enough common definitions which will enable us to function as a people."

"As long as we had an outsider to define for us who is a Jew, it was easy," he said, "but the minute we don't have an outside definition, it's different."

In the past, he commented, the Jews of Israel and the Jews of the Diaspora were in direct contact with each other through the rescue of a third person.

Looking five to 10 years ahead, Burg noted that this will be the first time in centuries when a majority of the Jewish people will not be under threat of persecution.

"The better the situation is for the individual Jew," he warned, "the worse it is is for the collective."

Up until now, he said, Israel has been relatively immune to intermarriage, "because we haven't yet lived a normal life."

Assimilation, which threatens Jewish existence, has not yet been properly addressed by the Israel government and the world Jewish leadership, he said, adding that he intends to discuss it today at a government sponsored meeting on future relations between Israel and the Diaspora.

Burg will press the government to help Jewish schools abroad to become the best in the world, so that people will want to send their children there.

He also wants to create a university of the Jewish people in Israel to help prepare future Jewish leaders for both the Diaspora, and Israel.

London to get Holocaust museum

HAIM SHAPIRO

LONDON'S Imperial War Museum (IWM) is to incorporate a Holocaust museum, according to Sir Sigmund Sternberg, chairman of the International Council of Christians and Jews, who was here last week for the World Jewish Congress Global Assembly.

Sternberg said the staff of the IWM has agreed to the allocation of space for the "museum within a museum" and that funds are being solicited for the project.

"This is an important step for us. London is the only world capital with no Holocaust museum," he said.

According to the plans, the new museum is to occupy the fourth and fifth floors of the IWM's "southern infill," an area of some 1,500 square meters. The floor above will show a related exhibit on the inhumanity of war, while the floor below is to be a conference and education center.

The new museum is to be a major part of an IWM redevelopment scheme. The cost of the entire project is £12 million, of which £3.5m. is for fitting out the Holocaust exhibit.

According to the IWM, the exhibit will take an objective stance on what it calls "uncomfortable truths" concerning Britain's role during the Holocaust. This includes restrictions on immigration, blockage of emigration to Palestine, and internment of Jewish refugees as enemy aliens.

Sternberg said he hoped the new museum would be opened within three years.

Genetic modeling proves paternity six years after alleged father died

JUDY SIEGEL

JERUSALEM genetic scientists have proven that a man who lived a "double life" and died of cancer six years ago was the father of the baby girl born to his mistress.

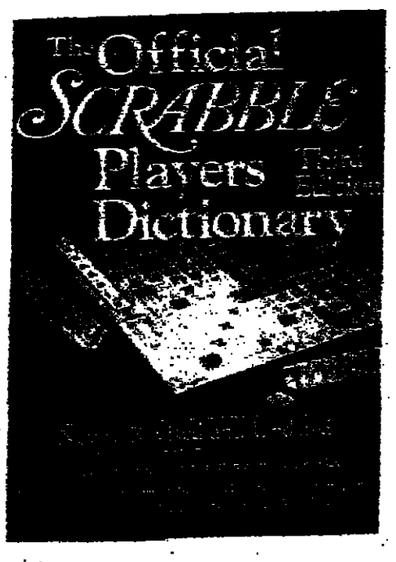
The proof was based on old blood samples taken while he was being treated at Haifa's Rambam Hospital and made possible through polymerase chain reaction (PCR) techniques used at Hadassah-University Hospital on Mt. Scopus in Jerusalem.

The man, who was married with children, had a mistress, whom he supported. After his sudden death, the mistress sued for a share in his estate to cover child-care expenses.

Prof. Adam Friedmann, head of Hadassah's molecular biology unit, worked with Dr. Stella Rosenbaum and Dr. Anat Blumenfeld on the case, after being asked by a court to settle the paternity question on the basis of DNA.

The man had undergone a biopsy and blood test at Rambam, but these tissue samples contained fewer than 1,000 cells of dried, old blood, making it impossible to determine his DNA type directly from them. The scientists worked for three months to develop a model that would allow reconstruction of the blood sample to make it suitable for analysis. Using PCR, they multiplied the DNA segments in the blood into a million copies and obtained enough for analysis.

In this case, because of the limited amount of genetic material, five markers – three of them rare – were tested. On the basis of three of them, his paternity of the girl, who is now nine years old, was proven with more than 97 percent accuracy.



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Mandela lectures Farrakhan

News Agencies
JOHANNESBURG

PRESIDENT Nelson Mandela told controversial US black Moslem leader Louis Farrakhan yesterday that South Africa rejects racism and sexism and reveres all religions.

The fiery orator, whose statements have attacked Jews and women specifically and whites generally, said after meeting Mandela he agreed with the president's non-racial stand.

"All of the principles that President Mandela has outlined we agree with totally," he told reporters after his 30-minute meeting with Mandela. "Islam is a religion which, if practiced, disallows racialism, racism, injustice, tyranny and oppression."

Mandela said he outlined "the fundamental principles on which our policies are based and on which we are trying to build a new South Africa" during the meeting at his Johannesburg home.

The lecture came after the visit of Farrakhan, head of the USbased Nation of Islam Movement, generated vocal controversy. South African newspapers questioned the wisdom of the visit because of racial sensitivities in the country's new democracy. The white right described him last week as a pile of horse manure.

Even Mandela's African National Congress had said Farrakhan could learn about tolerance during his visit.

Mandela said he had met many people with opposing views and agreed to meet Farrakhan despite opposition.

"I immediately agreed to meet him because in the course of my career as leader of the ANC and president I have accomodated a wide range of views. I have met people whose views were diametrically opposed to mine," Mandela told reporters.

Mandela has called on blacks and whites to come together since white minority rule ended with his election two years ago. Farrakhan, asked if racial divisions also could be bridged in the United States, said the key in South Africa was Mandela's leadership.

Farrakhan was on a 27-day factfinding tour of Africa that also has taken him to Nigeria, where he met with military dictator Gen. Sani Abacha, and Libya, where he met with Muammar Gaddafi.

Mandela defended Farrakhan's contacts with leaders who have been accused of trampling on human rights. The president said he himself would meet with Abacha as soon as the Nigerian leader released jailed political dissidents and embraced democratic reform, and called Gaddafi a supporter of the anti-apartheid movement.

Farrakhan has long had ties to Gaddafi. Such links, along with his fiery rhetoric, have earned him criticism in the United States. But his part in organizing the Million Man March on Washington was seen as a bid to shake off his militant reputation and emerge as a black leader with wide support.

During the October march Farrakhan extorted black men to take responsibility for their lives, and for combatting racism, and to treat women with respect.

At around the same time, he said he wanted to meet and exchange views with Jewish leaders.



A French military video shows a white shockwave as France carried out its sixth underground nuclear test, a 120 kiloton blast, at Fangataufa atoll in the south Pacific on Saturday. (Reuter)

French nuclear test sparks outrage, but may be last

ALISTER DOYLE
PARIS

FRANCE'S sixth nuclear test triggered a new wave of outrage in Asia and the South Pacific yesterday, tempered by hope the giant underground blast in French Polynesia will be the last.

Japan, Australia, New Zealand and the Philippines condemned the test at the remote Fangataufa atoll early yesterday, the most powerful since France ended a 1992 moratorium and resumed atomic testing last year.

The Defense Ministry said it was equivalent to less than 120,000 tonnes of conventional explosives, more than six times the power of the bomb dropped on the Japanese city of Hiroshima in 1945.

President Jacques Chirac, who said last year that France would probably stage six tests and then sign a treaty outlawing them for ever, was silent on whether the blast marked the end of a series that has damaged France's image abroad.

"We have no comment," an official at Chirac's office said. Chirac has left the option for a seventh test, saying he will complete the blasts by the end of February.

Officials said it would take several days to examine the computer data from the blast to decide if France can call a halt.

Chirac travels to the United States for a three-day visit on February 1, and will address a joint session of Congress on Thursday in what could be a golden opportunity to announce an end to testing.

Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating said the test was irresponsible and could derail current talks in Geneva on the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT).

"Such an irresponsible action sends the worst possible signal to nations that aspire to possess nuclear weapons...The French government is to be strongly condemned," Keating said.

New Zealand Prime Minister Jim Bolger expressed outrage but his government expected the blast would end the series. He said recent admissions of traces of radiation leakage after earlier blasts increased pressure on France to halt testing.

"There is no such thing as a safe nuclear test," Bolger said. Chirac has said the tests are "ecologically harmless".

Japan, the only country ever to suffer atomic bombing, voiced deep regret and urged Paris to halt further blasts.

"It is extremely regrettable," Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto said. The mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the two cities bombed in 1945, also protested.

The Philippines accused France of flouting the spirit of a recent Southeast Asian anti-nuclear treaty. "The Filipino people, and I personally, once again condemn in the strongest terms the latest test," President Fidel Ramos said.

Environmental group Greenpeace, which has led a flotilla to the South Pacific in efforts to stop the tests, said the blast was scandalous and a snub to the CTBT negotiators.

Former French president Valery Giscard d'Estaing, who ruled from 1974-81, did not criticize the tests but said: "I wish the fastest possible conclusion to French nuclear testing."

In a brief statement, the French Defense Ministry said that "the aim of the test was to guarantee the safety and the reliability of the weapons in the future".

The shock wave from the blast briefly turned the lagoon an eerie, frothing white.

Chirac has triggered successive waves of outrage since he ended the 1992 moratorium declared by his late Socialist predecessor, Francois Mitterrand. He has cut the number of tests from eight originally announced in June.

"All depends on the quality of the test...If it succeeds as well as the five others, perhaps there will only be six. If our officials believe they need more data then there will be a seventh," said an official close to Chirac.

Chirac says France needs the tests to validate a new warhead for its submarine-based missiles and acquire the ability to simulate tests on computer. (Reuter)

US soldier grazed by sniper, more POWs to be freed

SARAJEVO (AP) – A US soldier was wounded yesterday in a tense Serb-held suburb yesterday, the third time in two days that NATO soldiers have been fired on there.

Meanwhile, the slow release of prisoners of war continued across Bosnia yesterday. Red Cross officials complained that civilians were also being moved in unsupervised swaps.

The US soldier, Shawn H. Watts, was grazed by a sniper's bullet yesterday in front of the NATO headquarters building in Ilidza, west of Sarajevo.

NATO said it was investigating. Bosnian Serb army officials in Ilidza said they knew nothing of the shooting.

On Saturday, two French patrols in Ilidza were fired on. No one was injured and a NATO spokesman, French. Col. Richard Pernod, said the firing did not appear to be deliberate.

Under the Bosnian peace accord, Serb-areas in the Sarajevo suburbs will come under control of Bosnia's Moslem-Croat federation. Many of the approximately 60,000 Serbs in suburbs say they will leave rather than submit to the rule of enemies they fought for 42 months. Thousands already are thought to have departed.

The shootings came as the former foes geared up for another prisoner-of-war release.

On Saturday, about 380 people held by the Moslem-led government, its Croat allies and the Serbs were freed, Red Cross officials said yesterday.

That release fell short of the goal of releasing the remaining 600 prisoners registered with the International Red Cross. The POW releases are already a week behind schedule. The peace accord stipulated that the 900 prisoners registered with the Red Cross were to be freed unconditionally by Jan. 19. But only about a third were released on time.

Red Cross spokesman Pierre Gauthier said the Bosnian Serbs were expected to release prisoners from the eastern Bosnian towns of Visegrad and Foca yesterday, and that Red Cross delegates were in the prisons monitoring the release. It was unclear how many were to be freed.

According to Red Cross prisoner lists, which officials concede do not reflect all POWs in Bosnia, the Serbs still hold 140 prisoners.

The Bosnian Croats fulfilled their POW release obligations on Saturday, at least as far as Red Cross lists were concerned, Gauthier said. However, they were still holding about 50 prisoners, under investigation for possible war crimes. Gauthier said the Croats had the right to keep them for further investigation "for a reasonable time."

The Bosnian government was to free 75 prisoners from Travnik, but it was uncertain whether that would take place.

However, the Red Cross complained the government was still believed to hold many prisoners at a military prison in Tuzla, and that its delegates had not been allowed to visit them.

Ganthier called the Bosnian government's stance regarding the Tuzla detainees "unacceptable."

Calm prevails in Niger despite military coup

NIAMEY, Niger (AP) – The streets in the capital of this West African country were calm yesterday after soldiers seized control of government, ending the country's brief attempt at democracy.

In the second military coup in the region in 10 days, soldiers converged on the presidential palace and placed President Mahamane Ousmane under house arrest. Political parties were outlawed, the constitution was suspended, and Col. Barre Mainassara Ibrahim declared himself head of state.

Mainassara, 45, said he staged the coup to end the "absurd crisis" in parliament, where for the past year Ousmane and his opponents had been in a political standoff.

Mainassara said the military had "saved Niger from chaos" and called politicians "greedy, badly prepared, and incapable of adapting to the demands of democratic power."

A soldier and a presidential guard were killed and at least a dozen soldiers wounded in gunfights that could be heard throughout the capital as the coup unfolded.

International telephone lines were still cut today and the airport was closed.

As Mainassara's speech was read on state-run radio, civilians cowered in their homes. Soldiers, some firing into the air, patrolled the streets of the hot, dusty capital.

The coup, coming just 10 days after a military takeover in Sierra Leone, was sure to make things even more difficult for the wretchedly poor country of Niger, which depends on foreign aid. Few donor nations are willing to give money to military governments.

The US government condemned the coup.

"The military forces responsible for this abhorrent deed have acted contrary to the will of the people," said a statement by US State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns. Because the coup was violent, US law requires that the government now suspend aid to Niger, Burns said.

Major confident as party gears up for poll

LONDON (Reuter) – British Prime Minister John Major, shrugging off opinion polls which show his ruling Conservative party trailing badly, said yesterday he was confident of winning the next general election.

"I like elections, and clearly we are within 15 months of an election, so I am beginning to sniff the wind and feeling much happier about it," he told the *Sunday Telegraph* newspaper.

The signs are clear that the Conservatives – who have a paper-thin majority in parliament and trail the main opposition Labor party in opinion polls by 25 points – are gearing up for the next general election, which has to be held by May 1997.

The party, widely regarded as electoral dead-meat after a series of damaging public rows over policy towards the European Union, is invigorated after a week in which it savaged Labor for hypocrisy.

Ministers fell upon Labor with glee after it was revealed that opposition health spokeswoman Harriet Harman had decided to send her son to an elitist grammar school of the kind the party officially opposes.

Major said highlighting what he said were Labor's double standards would play a major part in the government's election strategy, which he worked out with ministers last week.

"That degree of hypocrisy on education, you can see it in a range of other policies, as well, where they will say one thing and do quite another," he told the newspaper.

Major shrugged off persistent rumors that senior party officials were plotting behind his back to oust him.

"No one can ever say we are not going to have a dispute in any political party, but I think the Conservative party is coming together to win the next election."

Major said he planned to reestablish the traditional contact of the party with its supporters and to persuade people that the benefit from economic recovery would be at risk if Labor were elected.

He also promised to vigorously defend the constitution against Labor's plans for reforms, including a proposal to give Scotland its own parliament.

Scottish secretary Michael Forsyth said yesterday that if Labor put the plan into effect, Britain would disintegrate.

"I think if they set up this parliament it will lead to the break up of the Union," he told BBC television.

Police use pressure in Du Pont standoff

NEWTOWN SQUARE, Pa (Reuter) – Police said yesterday they were using pressure as well as patience in efforts to end the tense siege at the mansion of eccentric millionaire John du Pont, now in its third day.

Police spokesman Lee Hunter said heating in the house was turned off on Friday evening in efforts to end the standoff with du Pont, who is alleged to have shot dead Olympic champion wrestler David Schultz.

Temperatures in the area were well below freezing on Saturday evening after a day of soaking rains, and yesterday dawned sunny and chilly.

Police moved spectators and media from the entrance to the estate and a windowless black panel van drove to the house where du Pont, member of one of the most prominent US family dynasties, has been holed up since the shooting.

About 75 police, including 30 tactical squad members, are involved in the operation at du Pont's 325-hectare Foxcatcher estate in rolling country near Philadelphia.

Some police wore tight-fitting black helmets as they were ferried into the estate grounds for shift rotations.

Hunter said negotiators had apparently given du Pont time to sleep on Saturday night, suspending telephone contacts for 13 hours until 10 a.m. yesterday.

"The hostage negotiators have been talking with Mr du Pont, they know his mental state, his emotional state, they must have felt that's what he needed to continue to negotiate," Hunter said.

Referring to the last phone contact on Saturday, Hunter said: "Mr du Pont was extremely cordial and positive."

He said du Pont, an expert marksman and thought to be heavily armed, was seen moving about as late as midnight.

Police had contingency plans for incidents such as an escape attempt or a fire in the mansion, but the primary police strategy remained to wait. "We're deploying patience," Hunter said.

He said local Baptist minister Roland Baccillia had led a church service yesterfor law enforcement personnel and others involved in the standoff.

"He (Baccillia) prayed, he asked for safety and wisdom for the police officers involved, he asked for safety and wisdom for the hostage negotiators, the command personnel," Hunter said. "He prayed for peace for the family of Dave Schultz and for Mr. du Pont's family."

Yemen may use force to free hostages

SANAA (Reuter) – Yemen said it might use military force to rescue a group of French hostages held by tribesmen in the impoverished Arab state if negotiations set for yesterday evening failed.

"This will be the last round of negotiations and if they continue to insist on their conditions we might use force to release the hostages," Marib Governor Abdel Wali al-Shamiri said hours before negotiations with the tribesmen were due to start.

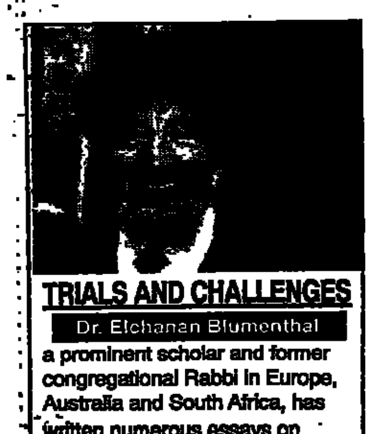
"The military forces are prepared to release the hostages (and can) guarantee their safety," he said, referring to a group of 17 French tourists who security sources said were abducted by the Doman tribe on Thursday.

Two Yemeni drivers and a translator were also abducted.

On Saturday, the tribe released one French hostage and one Yemeni driver. But the governor said the Frenchman who was freed returned to the group on yesterday because his wife was still among the hostages.

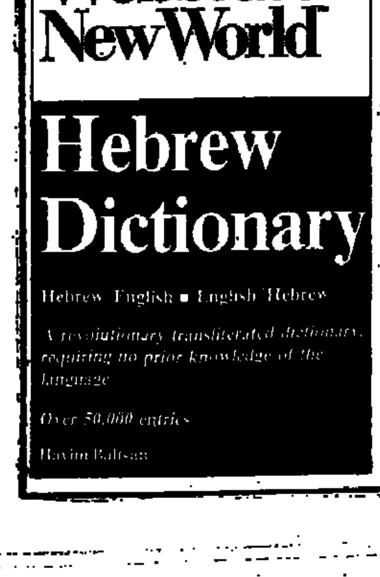
The group was abducted in Marib governorate and taken to the Shabwa region, about 460 km southeast of Sanaa. The tourists are aged between 48 and 85 and inculde 13 women.

"We are using different tribes from Marib and Shabwa during these negotiations in order to pressure the kidnappers. But this evening's negotiations will be the last. If they fail we might use force to release the hostages," Shamiri said.

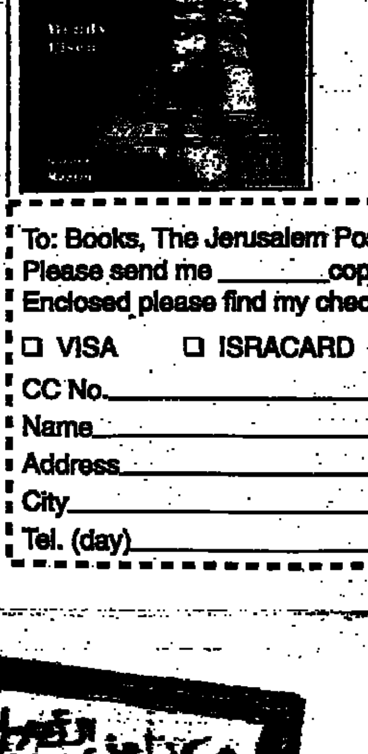


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Levin: Germans 'boo themselves'

It was a Christmas present that many wished had never been opened.

On December 23, in the the stamchly Catholic German city of Augsburg, Israeli director Assaf Levin premiered his new production of Verdi's opera about the Spanish Inquisition, *Don Carlo*.

Critics cheered, the audience booed and the resulting scandal made the national television news in Germany.

"I was invited by Augsburg to do either Donizetti's *Mary Stuart* or *Don Carlo*, two operas based on plays by Schiller," Levin explained during a brief visit here last week. "I always felt *Mary Stuart* was a boring opera, but I listened to it once again just to confirm my beliefs. Then *Carlo* was the obvious choice. It is a sociopolitical opera; it is about the Inquisition and it is a work which is not that often performed."

Levin was even further intrigued by the fact that a German opera house invited an Israeli director to put on a work which deals with the very basics of Christianity. Taking this one step further, he invited a fellow Israeli, Eytan Levy, to design the production.

"I realized even before opening night that some would be bothered by the production, but I wasn't familiar with the city and didn't anticipate such a scandal," he said.

The outcry centered around the famous auto-da-fe scene in the opera, which in Levin's production concludes the first part of the evening.

"The audience was probably hoping for a pinkish production with cherry blossoms, and they were very angry with what they actually saw on stage. I presented this Inquisition scene as an ongoing ritual, a sort of a weekly event in which people are burned to death," he said. "The celestial voice that is part of this opera became a sort of opium for the masses. It was as if they were gathering in the plaza once a week to see this death scene enacted in front of them again and again and again."

Levin and Levy created a huge cross which dominated the stage in this scene.

"Once it opened, it revealed spears and dead bodies and the choristers ran immediately towards the flow of blood," he explained.

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

During rehearsals, chorus members had no problems with the scene, Levin said, which is why the audience reaction surprised him.

Once word got out, television crews from all over Germany came to see the production and check the audience's reaction. Many booed.

"Those who boo, actually boo themselves. They are still part of the generation that lived in Germany 50 years ago and burned Jews to death," Levin said.

There were even occasional antisemitic reactions from the audience, but Levin said that the theater and management offered unwavering support.

"Once they invited me to direct there, it was my ball game and I could do anything I wanted to," he said. "There are many more performances planned for this and next season."

Levin explained that the major idea behind his production of *Don Carlo* was to try and see the characters as human beings.

"King Philip is not really a king in my approach, but rather a sort of Clinton character, a man with a lot of power yet a man whose personal life is not as glamorous. And the grand inquisitor is not the villain of the piece. He adamantly believes in what he does, he truly believes that he is killing the wicked."

Levin returns to Augsburg this season to direct Offenbach's *Les Contes d'Hoffmann*.

He is based in Prague – "a beautiful city which is close to everywhere. My wife studies in Vienna and we did not want to live there, so Prague is ideal for both of us."

Levin comes from a very theatrical family. His father, David Levin, was the artistic director of Habimah; his brother Ben is a director; and his uncle is Israel's leading playwright, Hanoch Levin.

Assaf Levin served his operatic apprenticeship at the Welsh National Opera, where he was a resident director for several years.

"I was in Berlin when I heard about the WNO opening so I went to Bristol by train, which took 22 hours, to meet the director, and after a one-hour interview I returned back to Berlin, again by train."

After leaving the WNO, Levin directed a few productions in Bielefeld, Germany, and in Long Beach, California, and is scheduled to direct *Werther* in Long Beach and another production yet to be decided in Bielefeld.

"I have enormous luck," the amiable Israeli said with a contented smile. "I do what I like, I live in a great city and I enjoy life."

He has no major regrets that his entire work experience in Israel was as an assistant director and that today no one here seems interested in his work.

"My father always told me to leave Israel and work abroad," he said. "He believed that would be the real way to develop, and my years at the WNO showed me he was right."

How to make a killing in art

FILM REVIEW

ADINA HOFFMAN

JADE

★★★

Directed by William Friedkin. Screenplay by Joe Eszterhas. Hebrew title: *Jade*. 95 minutes. English dialogue, Hebrew subtitles. Children under 17 not admitted without an adult. (ID will be checked.)

David Corelli ..... David Caruso
Trina Gavin ..... Linda Fiorentino
Matt Gavin ..... Chazz Palminteri



David Corelli (David Caruso), a San Francisco prosecutor, goes in hot pursuit of whoever hatcheted a wealthy art collector.

Screenwriter Joe Eszterhas specializes in telling an unusually warped sort of shaggy-dog story. His scripts for thrillers like *Jagged Edge*, *Basic Instinct*, and now, *Jade*, all rely on gratuitously sadomasochistic situations, improbable plot twists, simplistic psychology, purple dialogue and ludicrous endings.

They're also great fun to watch. Eszterhas has a knack for engaging us, despite the complete absurdity and, some might say, pornographic self-indulgence of his pet formulas. (Or maybe it's more accurate to say he engages us *because* of these indulgent methods.) At least he's clever enough to keep us guessing. And part of the smutty enjoyment of viewing an Eszterhas picture comes from trying to predict just how far he'll dare push one of his own cliches.

All these films take place in a fantasy San Francisco where the population is composed entirely of two groups. There are, first of all, the filthy rich, who live in enormous cliffside mansions with long driveways and maids in uniform. When they're not riding horses, dating rock stars or serving on museum acquisition committees, these society folks bide their time by dabbling in some glamorous profession like publishing magnate, crime novelist, or governor of the state.

And then there are the working stiffs: earnest police detectives, soft-spoken assistant D.A.s or single-mom lawyers. The main thing that unites these two kinds of characters is that they all enjoy their sex rough and ritualistic. Likewise the murders they commit or are called upon to solve.

In *Jade*, the crime involves the hatcheting-to-death of a millionaire art collector. When his body is discovered, he's wearing a piece from his own collection, a rare African fertility mask. Though this may sound exotic, it's actually just one more of the necessary ingredients in an Eszterhas film. The killings in his movies always involve some fetishistic prop, like an ice pick, the homicidal use of which is meant to suggest the enactment of a primitive tribal rite.

This time around, the man assigned to crack the lurid case is David Corelli (David Caruso), the aforementioned soft-spoken assistant D.A. He's got a gentle manner, Howdy-Doody red hair, and an old friendship with socialites Matt and Trina Gavin (Chazz Palminteri and Linda Fiorentino).

Matt's a big, bearish defense attorney, and Trina's a psychologist with a strange, flat voice, a deadness in her eyes and, it becomes clear, a secret. She delivers a lecture early in the film about people "no different from you or me" who are "blind to the darkness within themselves.... They dissociate themselves from their own actions" and, we assume, become capable of committing unspeakable atrocities such as murder with an African hatchet.

Director William Friedkin has a classier, more muted style than the other directors who've executed Eszterhas's pulpish outlines in the past. Instead of opening with in-your-face sex and violence (like both *Jagged Edge* and *Basic Instinct*, the film begins with a mesmerizing pan around the art collection of the soon-to-be-dead millionaire. Under the urgent Prokofiev-styled strings and tympani, we hear a struggle going on – but we can't distinguish the voices. And we never see a body. In fact, the only sign that a murder has taken place is a puddle of blood that seeps from under an opulent Chinese screen. In the context of all this diffuse golden light and sumptuousness, it looks more like liquid silk than anything gory.

Not only does he stage the most exciting car chase of the last several years (up and down the precipitous hills of North Beach and through a colorful parade in Chinatown), Friedkin fiddles skillfully with our expectations of the actors. On the one hand, all three of the leads seem impeccably cast. Caruso has a melancholy straightness about him that's perfect for his role. Fiorentino's hard, bitten persona is fascinating, though it's so close to the one she dished out in *The Last Seduction* that she appears – after only two major roles – to have wiggled her way into a rut. And no matter whom he plays, Palminteri always exudes the same breed of thuggish dignity.

On the other hand, these characterizations seem a little too inevitable to be true. Perhaps Friedkin plans to startle us in the end...

Suffice it to say that after learning whodunit in the closing frames, there's little use thinking back on any Eszterhas picture to try and reason your way through what "really" happened.

Like all his movies, *Jade* relies on sly hint-dropping and innuendo along the way, and then ditches the tricky particulars in the final seconds. It's not just that the scriptwriter believes that the animal side – our basic instinct – is what guides us. He needs a generous allowance of irrationality to grope his way out of the outlandish set-up.

Sundance fest goes big time

With the Sundance Film Festival – the premiere market for independent films in the US – closing over the weekend, movie executives raced around the small ski-resort town of Parky City, Utah, in pursuit of young filmmakers and movies Hollywood hopes to turn to gold.

In recent years, Sundance has evolved from a sleepy event where low-budget, independent films gained respect from fellow filmmakers to one in which movies are shown to Hollywood movie distributors.

"We don't leave anything to chance. We pursue films," said Mark Ordesky, who heads up New Line Cinema's team of about 12 people at Sundance. "And I think people who make the movies deserve to be pursued."

The reasoning for snapping up compelling, independent movies is simple: most are made on shoestring budgets and can be bought by distributors for a fraction of the $20 to $25 million average budget of a major Hollywood movie.

Moreover, the so-called "art-house" film theater circuit is expanding in the US, and the desire for English-language films is booming overseas.

In 1995, foreign revenues for independent, English-language films topped $1.3 billion, a record for the industry, according to the American Film Marketing Association.

Earlier this week, Ordesky's company paid about $2 million for distribution rights for an Australian film called *Shine*.

Shine, which held its world premiere at the festival, is inspired by the life of Australian pianist David Helfgot. Ordesky labeled the film a "white hot" choice, one he simply had to acquire. He screened the film last Sunday. By Monday morning, he was locked in a room for six hours negotiating the final contract.

Ordesky said competition for the movie was intense with bidders emerging on the first day of the screening and "the phone ringing off the hook while we were in that room." Miramax films co-chairman Harvey Weinstein got into a well-publicized shouting match at a local restaurant over rights to the film, an act for which he later apologized, according to local news reports.

While losing a rights battle can sometimes mean losing a job for acquisition executives, for the filmmakers, cutting a deal is often the ticket to a new career – from assistant-level jobs straight to the director's chair.

"I'm on cloud nine," said Lisa Krueger, writer and director of *Manny and Lo*, after Sony Pictures Classics paid a reported $750,000 to distribute her film. "This is kind of my dream, but I was totally unprepared by the immediate response."

Manny and Lo traces the story of two teenage sisters who run away from their foster home to live on the road.

Krueger said she finished the film last week and held its first ever screening on Tuesday at Sundance. The result was a tremendous audience response, the Sony deal and congratulations from event organizer and major Hollywood star, Robert Redford.

"Being here is a major opening for an independent," says Ralph Donnelly, producer representative for *Dadetown*, a documentary-style movie that's winning strong reviews from audiences.

Dadetown has not yet signed a deal, but Donnelly is hopeful, especially since writers Russ Hexter and John Housely went into debt, borrowed from their families and used every trick they knew to get their movie made.

Headed into its final screening late in the festival's schedule, he said three distributors were considering the film.

Meanwhile, movie deals were piling up fast. Earlier in the week, Castle Rock Entertainment surprised industry executives by paying $10 million to distribute *Care of the Spitfire Grill*, according to the trade newspaper Daily Variety.

Spitfire Grill stars Ellen Burstyn and Marcia Gay Harden and tells the story of a woman who is released from prison and tries to begin anew in a small town in Maine. (Reuter)

Fisher snags first film deal

Tenor Dudu Fisher will make his screen debut as the star of Menahem Golan's *The Road to Fame*. The film is a remake of the 1927 Al Jolson classic, *The Jazz Singer*. German Jewish industrialist Ignatz Blodinger will back the film which is budgeted at $5 million. Fisher and Golan flew to Frankfurt last week to sign contracts. In the 1927 version the poor cantor's son becomes a jazz singer. Neil Diamond became a rock star in an unsuccessful 1980 remake and in Golan's film Fisher will become a famous opera singer. *Helen Kaye*

A pianist reflects on Beethoven and bad omens

Great rehearsal, bad concert. That's one of the oldest musical superstitions around, and Ja'acov Kasman has reason to believe it.

Four years ago, on the strength of his early-round performances in the Arthur Rubinstein Piano Masters Competition in Tel Aviv, the Russian-Jewish pianist was considered a shoo-in for the semi-finals.

"I was very optimistic after the first stage," the 29-year-old pianist reminisces during a return visit this week. "Even during the morning rehearsal with the orchestra when I played Beethoven's fifth piano concerto, I was in high spirits. It was a great rehearsal and many people say that a great rehearsal is a bad omen."

It certainly was one for Kasman.

"I was so confident and I knew I would return to the auditorium in the evening and show everybody how good I was," he recalls. "The rest, however, is history."

Kasman quickly realized that it was not going to be his night.

"It just didn't happen the way I wanted it to happen," he says. "I was too excited and the moment I left the stage I knew that was the end." He eventually finished in fifth place.

Competitions like the Rubinstein Piano Masters, says Kasman, who lives in Moscow with his wife and their eight-month-old daughter Alexandra, are a necessary, but not necessarily fair, evil.

"I'm not inventing the wheel by telling you that once we look at the jury in any given competition and at the list of participants we can tell quite clearly who will eventually advance to the next round."

That said, "participating in competitions is better than staying at home doing nothing. And even if you do not end up a winner, you might meet a manager or conductor who will eventually open some doors for you."

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Does this means that piano competitions are little more than slave markets for young musicians?

"This is definitely one way of putting it. In today's world everything is bought and sold," Kasman says. "Unfortunately, what I do is mere art and I have yet to find a person who is interested in selling me."

Like a true professional, however, Kasman returned to the scene of his disappointment on Saturday and offered up a recital in homage to Rubinstein on the very stage where he first impressed local audiences.

This Friday, at 11 a.m., he'll perform Rachmaninoff's third piano concerto with the Haifa Symphony Orchestra in their home auditorium.

Kasman has a strong connection with this concerto.

"Ever since I was a child I admired this concerto," he says. "Obviously many pianists, myself included, try to do some things in a different way when we perform such a well-known and often-performed concerto. Of course everyone can hear that and it makes for a more interesting rendition."

One composer with whom he feels complete affinity is Prokofiev.

"Sometimes I can express through his music all my pains, fears and anxieties."

Kasman speaks less about joy, happiness and love though, only saying, "you don't find a lot of that in the music I play."

Even in his personal life, Kasman avoids talking about good and pleasant things simply to avoid bad luck. After all, he still remembers vividly that morning in which he was sure he was about to conquer the world in a piano competition.

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Ethiopian protest

PRIME Minister Shimon Peres revealed his diplomatic skills yesterday when he met with a delegation of Ethiopian demonstrators and offered the government's apology to their community. Having suffered unconscionable mistreatment, numerous injustices and profound insults – capped most recently by revelations of government dissembling on blood donations – the Ethiopian immigrants most certainly deserve a profuse apology.

But nothing can be more foolish and short-sighted than to suppose that such an apology is anything but a minor gesture of good will and a necessary step to momentarily calm agitated demonstrators. As one of the protesters put it, if an apology is all the government has to offer, future confrontations will make yesterday's violent clash with the police seem like a minor, harmless incident.

It requires no deep insight to realize that the blood-donation fiasco did not cause the harsh bitterness, burning hostility and uncontrollable rage which characterized yesterday's demonstration. In fact, there is nothing wrong in the decision to disqualify blood from immigrants who come from AIDS-afflicted countries. As long as there is no foolproof way of checking such blood for the HIV virus, it is the health authorities' duty to minimize the risks. Had even one such donation caused the death of its recipient, the country would have been up in arms against the health authorities for being criminally lax.

That there is nothing racist about the policy should be clear: the blood of such "high risk" groups as homosexuals and drug addicts is also disqualified. And the fact is that Ethiopian donations of rare blood types are not discarded but used after being kept for the period needed to ascertain their safety. Had there been any prejudice against the donors per se, such donations would have also been disqualified.

But there is something racist about the patronizing attitude with which the matter has been handled. The intention at Magen David Adom, the agency responsible for collecting blood donations, was to avoid hurting the feelings of Ethiopian donors. Instead of explaining why their blood could not be used, the health authorities told the Ethiopians nothing, while furtively discarding their blood. But like all such well-intentioned dissimulations, this "white lie" – shared by hundreds of nurses and medics – was bound to be discovered, ultimately hurting Ethiopian feelings far more acutely.

The practice was not merely foolish, nor just immoral and unethical. It is a symptom of the same kind of insufferable condescension which has afflicted relations between veteran Israelis and newcomers from less-developed countries ever since the establishment of the state.

Such condescension seems to be an unfortunate but universal human characteristic. And it may be arrogant and unrealistic to expect the Jewish nation to be less prone to ugly manifestations of bigotry only because Jews have been victims of discrimination throughout history.

But there was reason to expect greater understanding. That the nation enthusiastically supported and cheered Operation Moses and Operation Solomon which brought Ethiopian Jews to this country is more than any other nation has done. As one American columnist put it, it was the first time in history that African people were transported from their native land to freedom rather than to slavery.

People may feel differently once the initial elation of a rescue operation passes. But the government must continue with enlightened policies. And the fact is Israel's governments have shown little understanding for the particular problems of the Ethiopian immigration.

Not that the task is easy. The Ethiopians come from a woefully under-developed country, and they cannot be integrated easily. But what seems to trouble them most is not the inevitable economic and social problems, but the dishonesty and patronization they meet every step of the way. This is particularly true in education, the army and government service – precisely the areas in which the government could have made them feel welcome and equal.

The violence at yesterday's demonstration was as ugly as any uncontrollable outburst can be. But there was something refreshing in the uproar that Absorption Minister Ya'ir Tzaban created when he tried to deny knowledge of the blood-donation outrage and blamed the Likud for the problem. If the Ethiopians are savvy enough to have a healthy contempt for the insulting nonsense of political rhetoric they cannot be far from total integration.

One can only hope that yesterday's violence, censurable as it may be, will beget the right response in the Israeli public. The Ethiopian community is not a charity case. It is a healthy, productive and proud national asset, whose needs must be met with understanding, honesty and straightforwardness.

It will be nothing short of tragic if the Ethiopian ingathering, one of the finest chapters in Israel's history, will end with the creation of an underclass rather than as a monument to Jewish oneness.



The core of the conflict

SHAWN M. PINE

A favorite justification for negotiating the return of the Golan Heights to Syria is the cliche that land does not provide security.

Yet many empirical studies of the causes of war suggest the opposite. These studies, most recently Professor John Vasquez's *The War Puzzle*, suggest that territory is a critical leading factor in the cause of war. Other studies have suggested that natural borders, in our case the Golan, coupled with an asymmetry of force in favor of the status-quo power, in our case Israel, do deter attack.

Conversely, contiguous border disputes in which there is a perceived symmetry of power often lead to war. Still more studies have suggested that war is a result of a conflict of "core values" between two societies.

This raises two important questions: What are the dimensions of the territorial dispute between Israel and Syria? And how will returning the Golan to Syria change the perceived balance of forces?

To believe that returning the territories will bring peace, we would have to believe that peace prevailed in the region prior to June 1967, when Israel captured the territories.

However, we know that prior to the Six Day War Israeli farmers in the valley below the Golan Heights were subjected to incessant Syrian shelling. This suggests that the core of the conflict is not the Golan, and may be based upon historical, religious, and cultural animosities. In which case, any "peace" treaty will only be a transitory respite.

More important is the question of how returning the Golan may change the perceived asymmetry of power between Israel and Syria.

Sitting atop the Golan would give Syria a strategic advantage, which may lead it to perceive that the correlation of forces has shifted to its favor. The result of this perception, correct or not, would be a renewal of hostilities.

The claim that many current and former generals refute the Golan's strategic importance is spurious and without merit. Both sides of the debate can wheel out countless "experts" to support their contentions. Many serving and retired generals think the Golan is of major strategic importance. The most recent is Israel's current chief of staff.

Where Syria's concerned, it isn't the Golan

Equally untenable is the contention that modern weaponry negates the importance of territory. Ironically, strategic planners consistently contend that given the speed, lethality, and range of modern weaponry, strategic depth is far more important today than previously.

THE CRUX of the problem is that while leaders may sign "peace" treaties, peace is made between peoples. The fact that Hafez Assad quibbles over the extent and type of peace he is willing to have with Israel; that Yasser Arafat uses terms like jihad and "liberation" to refer to the transfer of authority in the territories; and that an estimated 250,000 mourners turned out for the Gaza funeral of terrorist Yihye Ayyash suggests that Israel's existence is anathema to the core values of many Palestinians, that they have not undergone the metamorphosis the current government would have us believe.

Advocates of the present government claim that Hizbullah activity in Lebanon threatens the whole region with destruction, while the government dismisses Hamas terrorism as little more than a mild irritation. And following the Rabin assassination, government supporters called for suppression of freedom of speech under the banner that "words can kill," while dismissing Arafat's promises to liberate Jerusalem as meaningless rhetoric.

During the US national health care debate, Americans were told to ask themselves two questions regarding their president's desire to overhaul the health care system: What am I getting? And how much is it going to cost?

It is time Israelis asked their leaders what kind of peace they will be getting by returning the Golan, and what the cost in lives will be if Israel needs to recapture the Heights in a future conflict.

The government's attempt to define the debate in terms of peace or land reflects the shallowness of its position, and its contempt for the intelligence of Israel's electorate.

The debate isn't about peace or land. It is over whether the government's actions are alleviating or exacerbating the potential for future conflict. It is a legitimate debate between those who have a utopian vision of a "new" Middle East, and those who listen to what Israel's "peace partners" are saying.

The writer, a former US Army intelligence officer, is currently a Ph.D candidate in international relations at the Hebrew University.

Getting real

SUSAN HATTIS ROLEF

FOR over a week now British media headlines have been featuring Harriet Harman, shadow minister of health in the Labor Party.

The reason behind all the rumpus was Harman's registering her son at a highly prestigious grammar school outside her own district, in preference to any of the local schools located inside the district.

Since parents in Britain can choose the school to which they wish to send their children, there was nothing legally wrong with her decision.

The problem is that Britain's Labor Party is seeking to abolish this system of free choice, which it says perpetuates differences in education levels provided by different schools. It wants to strengthen the weaker schools – by, among other things, ensuring that bright students aren't moved away from them.

The Conservative Party launched a caustic attack on what it termed Labor's hypocrisy, and Laborite hardliners demanded Harman's resignation from her position in the shadow cabinet.

But Labor leader Tony Blair rose to Harman's defense.

As long as the Conservatives stay in power, he said, weaker schools are denied the help they require to raise standards. With every parent now being able to choose the school he wants his children to attend, it is unfair to force anyone – even a Labor Party leader – to compromise his children's future for the sake of an unrealized principle.

Self-interest vs. principle in politics. A thorny issue

THE Harman affair points to a real dilemma.

What value do principles have, if every time they come up against self-interest, the latter wins out? On the other hand, is it wrong to argue that principles cannot be divorced from circumstances?

For example, until the last general elections, members of Israel's Labor Party were expected, with few exceptions, to be members of the Histadrut, even if they did not require trade union services, and were members of a health fund other that Kupat Holim Clalit.

The reasoning was that the Histadrut was considered an integral part of Labor's ideology – despite the fact that, in practice, the organization had long ceased to serve the canses for which it was originally set up, serving rather those of its own apparatus and the stronger trade unions.

In other words, it may be argued that just as Harriet Harman should be expected to send her son to a local school once such a school can offer him an appropriate education, so members of our Labor Party should only be expected to be members of the Histadrut (if at all) once the labor federation starts providing services they really need.

None of this is to suggest that we are entering an era in which politics should be based exclusively on pragmatism and self-interest rather than ideology, or that members of the legislature should represent only interests and not ideology.

Britain's House of Commons recently appointed an external commissioner for standards to stop some of the uglier manifestations of interests taking precedence over principle.

These include members of parliament being willing to peddle their parliamentary services for a fee, on a one-time or regular basis.

To return to the issue, there is no doubt that ideology must constantly be reviewed.

Just as the Labor Party in Britain needs to take another look at its education policy before it returns to power (something it is expected to do next year), Israel's Labor Party should take a serious look at the kind of relationship it ought to have with the new Histadrut.

This has become especially important in a situation where Labor's Young Turks are busily remodeling the Histadrut together with their partners from Meretz, without any reference to what the 1992 Labor Party's platform or its ideologues say on the issue.

Reality may at times outrun ideology. When this happens, it is important for ideology to catch up.

The writer is a political scientist.

A Palestinian 'bill of rights'

ALON BEN-MEIR

UNDER the best of circumstances, Palestinian factionalism and rivalry will continue to challenge the emerging political order for several years to come.

Yasser Arafat can either rise to the historic occasion and strengthen the democratic foundations of a new state, or remain true to his instincts by being arbitrary, exclusionary and undemocratic.

Arafat is known for his secretive approach to governing, for his dependence on an elaborate security apparatus, his control of finances to maintain his grip on power, and his preference for surrounding himself with loyal cronies. He has often trampled on democratic principles: Most recently, he ordered a newspaper closed and a Palestinian editor jailed for printing stories with which he disagreed.

With such a potential for abuse, democratic elections alone, momentous though they may be, will not prevent human rights abuses or guarantee personal freedom as long as any elected body can abuse (or even abolish) the whole political system that brought it to power.

Contrary to successive American administrations which have been remarkably shy about pushing democracy in the Middle East, the Clinton administration must now be directly engaged to ensure the ultimate success of the Palestinian experiment. By supporting Palestinian democracy, the Clinton administration would be making a major contribution to regional stability, and thereby to American national interests.

FIRST, the US, with Israel, should persuade Arafat to mobilize the legislative council to enact a new Palestinian national charter – a "bill of rights," institutionalizing human rights and guaranteeing individual freedom.

A national charter can provide the basis for the development of democratic institutions on which the Palestinians can erect their future state. Only such basic laws can enhance the legitimacy and credibility of the Palestinian Authority, provide for a legal and smooth succession to power, and ensure long-term regional stability and progress.

A national charter can be the basis on which the democratic institutions of the future state will rest

In future elections, political parties – including Hamas – that win a majority vote will be bound by the national charter. For example, their leaders will have to respect religious diversity. They will be unable to abolish the law of the land in order to impose Islamic law, except by national referendum.

In other words, these political parties will understand that they can share power only through democratic means, and that they must respect the constitutional rights of the individual citizen. As a successful democracy, the Palestinian state would offer a model to Egypt, Algeria and other Arab nations still threatened by Islamic fundamentalist groups.

Second, the Clinton administration must take the lead in persuading other Western nations, Israel, and donor states to insist on linking all future Palestinian economic and diplomatic assistance to democratization. Such linkage has proven its effectiveness in the past, and substantial American resources can be brought to bear to influence events in this direction.

Third, the US must impress on the Palestinian leadership that American support for a Palestinian state is conditional upon a continued commitment to democracy and human rights. As an added incentive, it should be stressed that Israelis would be far more inclined eventually to support the creation of a democratic Palestinian state. Any agreement between such a state and Israel would have greater legitimacy in the eyes of both peoples.

The Palestinians have a historic opportunity to begin their political organization from scratch. To emerge from the shackles of occupation they need a new brand of intifada – not violent, but a peaceful sloughing-off of their self-enslaving habits.

They must, with active US support, insist on a free democratic society, one in which human rights are constitutionally enshrined rather than subject to the whims of elected officials.

Only then will democratic elections become meaningful, and elected officials learn to respect both their public and the limits of their power.

The writer is professor of International Relations at the New School for Social Research, New York.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

RABBINIC POLITICS

Sir, – Moshe Kohn's column on January 5 attacked Rabbi Aharon Lichtenstein, head of Yeshivat Har Etzion in Alon Shvut, for "confessing too much." While Mr. Kohn certainly has the right to disagree with the views of Rabbi Lichtenstein, his column is not convincing because it fails to explain: (1) which of Rabbi Lichtenstein's statements are incorrect and why, and (2) at what point does confessing become "too much." The only criterion Mr. Kohn seems to entertain is a negative one, i.e., the hypocrisy of the secular left in light of the Ehud Adiv case. Apparently Rabbi Lichtenstein has opted for a higher standard.

Mr. Kohn's column elicited a letter from Rabbi Yaakov I. Homnick, published in the *Post* on January 21, that commends the columnist for "penetrating" Rabbi Lichtenstein's "immunity to criticism," allegedly based upon his being the son-in-law of the late Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik. Although I have had the privilege of being a student of his for a long time, I cannot recall that Rabbi Lichtenstein has ever claimed immunity to criticism – either explicitly or implicitly – because of his father-in-law or for any other reason. In fact, Rabbi Lichtenstein has never been regarded as infallible, neither by himself nor by his wife nor by his students. Even before the January 5 column in the *Post*, he was certainly subjected to criticism in some quarters – and even delegitimation, e.g., the refusal of last month's Kulanu K'Ehad organizers to allow him to address the gathering.

As for Rabbi Homnick's advice that Rabbi Lichtenstein "keep his hands out of politics" – is Rabbi Homnick joining the chorus of those who would muzzle rabbis in general, or would he muzzle only those who disagree with him?

YITZHAK FRANK
Jerusalem.

Moshe Kohn comments:

1) I did not write that any of Rabbi Lichtenstein's statements are "incorrect."

2) Rabbi Lichtenstein's confessing became "too much" when, in the examples I cited, he singled out "especially and directly" the national-religious community as obligated to feel shame at the low level to which our society has sunk, and as guilty of having "nurtured simplism."

HONEST PRESS

Sir, – As I have just seen a copy of *The Jerusalem Post* dated January 21, I would like to make the following observations on the report by On Levy under the headline, "Hamas terrorists killed in clash with soldiers near Jenin."

That three Palestinians were indeed killed and an Israeli soldier wounded is an irrefutable fact – that a Kalashnikov rifle was used by Palestinians, however, is not.

It is to be hoped that the inquiries by the Palestinian and Israeli authorities into this incident will clarify the events resulting in this tragedy; it is however, important for your readers, the families of the dead and wounded and the people of Jenin, that the true facts of this tragedy be publicly verified.

Honest press is vital in achieving the truth and respect of the many diverse interests in attempting to bring peace to the region.

CLLR. ERIC BYRNE T.D.,
Member of the Irish Parliament
Dublin.

The Hamas terrorists used pistols, not a Kalashnikov. *The Jerusalem Post* regrets the error. *Ed. J.P.*

LOGICAL ARTICLES

Sir, – I thought you would like to know that every time an article by Jonathan Blass appears in *The Jerusalem Post*, I receive at least two copies of it sent to me by friends in Israel. I in turn send them to other friends. Even a Peace Now supporter says that, although she does not agree with many of Blass's ideas, they are so logical and well expressed that she is forced to review some of her opinions.

FRANCES HEYMAN
New York.

WAR WITHOUT THE GOLAN

Sir, – Since the peace process was based on the assumption that there was a "New World Order" after the Gulf War and that the Soviet Union was no longer an automatic supporter of Syria against Israel, perhaps there should be a pause now in the negotiations with Syria. It seems that our democratic friend Yeltsin is in trouble after the botched Chechnya affair and his re-election is in serious doubt.

If Russia turns rightward, inward and away form the West, it may also turn against Israel and resume its active support of Assad, who refrains from making war only because he knows he does not have enough to fight with. In that case, Israel would find itself, after a peace treaty, in the same boat in which it was before the Yom Kippur War, or in a worse position, since much of the West Bank would then be in Arafat's hands. Let us remember that Arafat supported Saddam Hussein in the Gulf War. Would he hesitate to support Assad in a war in which the new-old Russia would support Assad?

To rush in before these possible negative developments occur with a withdrawal from the Golan and a peace on paper with Syria, would be foolish. After they eventually take place, we may look back nostalgically to the time we were on the Golan, with no peace. Peace without the Golan would be worthwhile. War without the Golan would be disastrous.

RABBI JACOB CHINITZ
Jerusalem.

CARTOONS

Sir, – We have not yet found one person who understands or appreciates Meir Ronnen's so-called "cartoons." They are not funny, nor witty, nor informative, not even offensive or sarcastic. In fact, our five-year-old daughter draws more interesting and sophisticated pictures than Ronnen's.

Please give us Oleg, a world-class cartoonist and caricaturist, full-time. Your readers deserve nothing less.

DAVID and NADIA MATAR
Efrat.

هكذا من الأصل

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Weekly Review

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Eenie, Meenie



Agence France-Presse

Prime Minister Chernomyrdin gives Moscow the line of his party, Our Home Is Russia; an older message ("We Are Building Communism") is still around.

Picking America's Favorite Russian

By STEVEN ERLANGER

WASHINGTON

AMERICANS are watching in confusion as Russia beats against the current, borne ceaselessly into the past. With Boris Yeltsin shelling villages, firing reformers, blowing the budget and placing intelligence operatives in key positions throughout the Government, trying to reinvent himself again before presidential elections in June, is he still America's guy?

And if not Mr. Yeltsin, for which of the likely presidential candidates should America root? And why?

The first problem is that Washington's clumsy embrace of Mr. Yeltsin may have done more harm than good. "You can argue that Yeltsin has been hurt by our rooting for him, and the Clinton Administration has been hurt by it, too," said Stephen Sestanovich of the Carnegie Endowment. "So who comes out ahead?"

The U.S. has a stake in that other presidential race. And it's two cheers for Yeltsin.

Paul Goble, a steady critic of Administration policy now with the Potomac Foundation, which studies Eastern Europe, says it's time for the United States to stop embracing personalities in any case, as if countries had feelings rather than interests. "Since 1985," he said, first with Mikhail Gorbachev and now with Mr. Yeltsin, "we've identified with a leader rather than a process." Once you do that, he says, "you have nowhere to retreat" when your favorites behave badly.

For instance, American officials admit they were too slow to condemn Russian behavior in Chechnya. Most people think they were just bending over backwards for their friend Mr. Yeltsin.

Secretary of State Warren Christopher says firmly that "America doesn't have a candidate in that election." It is the election itself that matters, he said last week, and the exercise of democracy.

But he immediately added that Mr. Yeltsin "has been a reformer" who has accomplished a lot. "We're very strongly supportive of the reformers who want to continue the reform," he said, "but we don't have a candidate in that election."

Of course America does have a candidate, given the alternatives, and that is the multi-flawed, pasty-

Continued on page 4

Join the Club: The Annals Of Default

By FLOYD NORRIS

IT'S a small, if not especially select, circle of countries that the United States will join if the wrangling in Washington forces the country to default on its debts. Last week the Treasury Secretary warned it could happen at the end of February.But only seven other countries have managed to default on debt in their own currency in the past quarter century.

The group is small because usually it's not that hard for a government to pay such debts. Paying off borrowings in foreign currencies can be hard; doing so in your own is normally easy. After all, government printing presses can simply churn out more currency.

So why do governments default? Usually because of revolution or total economic mismanagement and

Revolution is one excuse. Chaos is another. What's Washington's problem?

disarray. In Vietnam, for example, the local currency debts of the old South Vietnamese regime were repudiated when the Communists took control in 1975. It wasn't that they couldn't pay; it was that they considered the debts illegitimate. A similar thing had happened in Russia after the 1917 revolution.

Economic disarray was the reason Argentina defaulted in 1982. Inflation had run rampant for many years, and the Government, to borrow in its own currency, had to promise to indemnify lenders against inflation by paying interest rates that would exceed the inflation rate. Issuing more currency just brought on more inflation, and eventually the Government decided to abrogate its contracts.

The other countries on the dishonor role for defaults, as compiled by Standard & Poor's Corporation, the debt-rating company, include Brazil, Venezuela, Myanmar and Angola. Russia joined the group after the Soviet Union collapsed.

None of the Western industrial powers has defaulted on debts in its own currency; no one has thought it possible. Neither revolution nor economic chaos seemed likely, particularly in the United States where Alexander Hamilton, more than 200 years ago, established the principle that this country pays its debts.

But it could happen, and for both reasons — disarray and revolution. . No one who has followed the budget debate would deny there is economic disarray in Washington. And many of the Republicans in Congress,

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When it comes to interpreting a State of the Union address, context is everything.
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Space Character
The constantly changing definition of the right stuff
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The Long View
Crime is down. But it's been much lower. Can the past be retrieved?
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The Envelope, Please

A Bribe's Not a Bribe When It's a Donation

By JANE FRITSCH

WASHINGTON

A lobbyist for the Superior Flange Company gives Senator Backscratch 10 $100 bills to introduce legislation deregulating the flange industry. The Senator makes a down-payment on a new car and has his staff draw up the bill.

A lobbyist for the Ace Framus Company sends a check for $1,000 to Senator Wily's campaign fund. Senator Wily dips into the fund to lease a new car and introduces a bill to deregulate the framus industry.

One man is an obvious criminal who could face time in prison. The other is a smart politician working the system like so many of his colleagues.

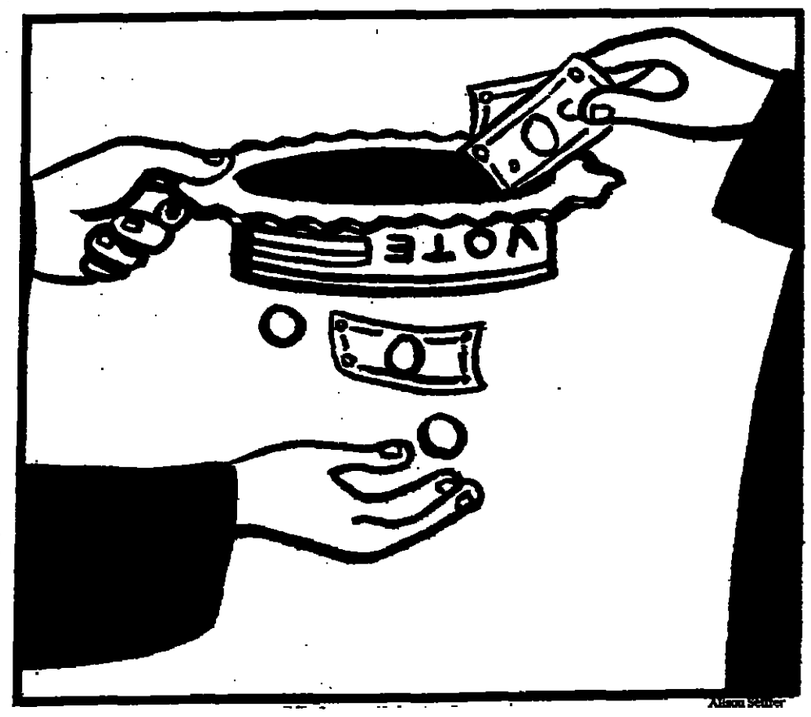
Why are the actions of one man considered illegal and the actions of the other legitimate? Legally, the answer rests on distinctions worthy of a Talmudic scholar. But practically, the answer is that money for influence is so entrenched a part of American politics that the campaign system would founder without it. Candidates have an endless hunger for money to stay competitive, and donors are savvy enough to get a return on their money. Otherwise, they would stop giving.

With campaign spending expected to reach a stratospheric $100 million for this year's Presidential race alone, the influ-

Buying political influence through contributions is legal (if it's not too brazen).

ence of special interest money is emerging as a serious political issue. Last week, in his State of the Union Address, President Clinton, who has accepted his share of special interest money, called for the passage of bipartisan legislation that would sharply restrict the large donations that are now legal, including those to party committees that critics complain are used to skirt Federal election laws. It would also ban campaign funds used for personal expenses. The legislation was introduced last fall by a small group of senators and representatives from both parties, and support for it is hardly widespread.

Last Wednesday, the Republican National Committee collected more than $16 million at its annual dinner, a record for a single fund-raising event. Chief among the inducements was a promise of special access to important House and Senate committee members and private meetings with House



Alison Seiffer

Speaker Newt Gingrich and Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole, as well as a private breakfast with the Presidential nominee. The price for a private meeting: $250,000.

Technically, nothing in the law bars a prosecutor from charging an elected official with bribery for taking an official action on behalf of a campaign contributor. But prosecutors may hesitate to pursue such cases because of the difficulty in proving a quid pro quo, said Philip B. Heymann, a Harvard law professor and former Deputy Attorney General in the Clinton Administration.

"The person who gives always has a very strong argument that he in no way wanted to link it to any single vote," Mr. Heymann said. While an unreported cash payment looks highly suspicious to jurors, he said, a campaign donation has a presumption of legitimacy that must be overcome with substantial evidence of motive and intent, evidence that is often lacking.

"I think it's got to be a pretty stupid lobbyist who tries to make an explicitly criminal deal with a legislator," he said.

Stanley M. Brand, a Washington lawyer who has represented a number of politicians in trouble, said it is hard for a prosecutor to make a campaign contribution look like a bribe unless there is "the most explicit evidence" of a quid pro quo. "In 1996 people seem to have smartened up to where they don't have those conversations and writ-

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The Nation

Aid From an Enemy Of the Welfare State

By JASON DePARLE

WASHINGTON

IF conservatives ever chose a political poster child, the halls of Congress might well be pasted with the meaty jowls of John Engler, Michigan's two-term Governor. No other state executive has logged as many hours in the inner councils of the Republican Congress, plotting the demise of the Federal welfare state.

So Mr. Engler was understandably puzzled last week at the reaction to his latest welfare plan. This time, it was the conservatives who were grumbling. And the people Mr. Engler had spent his career denouncing as Beltway liberals were blowing kisses his way — albeit with a certain mischief in mind.

Donna Shalala, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, pronounced herself stunned to find Mr. Engler on her left, "but pleased to have him there." Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan of New York hailed the Engler plan as a sign that "sanity may be returning to this debate." Representative

Democrats cheer the Governor who hates Federal programs.

Barney Frank, perhaps the most partisan paleoliberal in Congress, said he would file a bill to make the Engler proposal the law of the land.

Mr. Engler would offer poor people services like child care and transportation while requiring them to work, an idea that seems at odds with his earlier purges of 80,000 adults from Michigan's welfare rolls. But unlike the Democrats, he emphatically rejects any notion of making this plan — or any other — a Federal requirement.

By the end of the week, the noise that came crackling from the Governor's car phone wasn't just static, but the sound of his conservative teeth grinding. "I'm delighted to have their praise — the program deserves their praise," he said. "But the conclusions they're drawing are dead wrong." The conclusions, that is, about what it all means for the antipoverty debate that is currently stalled in Congress.

Democrats crow that Mr. Engler's plan makes the point that there's room for innovation without abolishing the 60-year-old Federal guarantee of aid, known as an "entitlement."

But Mr. Engler argues that governors govern best when the Feds leave them alone. He wants welfare and other programs converted to lump sum payments called "block grants," with virtually no Federal strings attached.

"What my program proves — and what those of other governors prove — is that we're fully capable of doing the right thing," he said. "Massachusetts will do one thing, Wisconsin will do something else. We'll pick up on those aspects that work."

Support Services

His program, called "Project Zero," targets 7,000 recipients in six areas of the state, promising them whatever services they need to hold a job. Those who can find private jobs must then take them. Those who cannot must perform community service. Those who refuse will find their grants significantly reduced.

If it sounds familiar, that's because President Clinton proposed more or less the same thing two years ago. Republicans derided the plan as more big government.

So it's no wonder that Democrats now say the Engler plan validates the principles of mutual responsibility, between society and the poor, that President Clinton has long proclaimed. Like the President, Mr. Engler also hopes to guarantee medical care to the poor once they leave the rolls.

Many conservatives, while reluctant to throw barbs at Mr. Engler, are not exactly applauding. When Gov. William Weld of Massachusetts called the plan "generous," he did not mean it as a compliment. "I like a sterner approach," he said.

Unlike the Republican plan in Congress, Project Zero has no time limits: as long as a woman is willing to work, she can receive benefits. It also contains no "family cap," meaning women who have additional children can receive larger grants. "There are a lot of conservatives who think that cutting off welfare is the only answer," said Senator Rick Santorum, a Pennsylvania Republican who added that he is not among them.

The tepid Republican response underscores the split between the "work" and "illegitimacy" camps. Mr. Engler is among those who believe a welfare overhaul should make recipients work. Members of the "illegitimacy camp" argue that the main goal should be to deter out-of-wedlock births; they would deny benefits to young unmarried mothers altogether and put strict cutoffs on families, whether they work or not.

While Mr. Engler was annoyed by the liberal encomiums, the real issue may not be the size of his heart but the size of his wallet. No one, including Mr. Engler himself, knows what his program will cost. The Governor insists it will save money eventually, by moving families off the rolls.

But there are reasons to be skeptical. Work programs almost always cost more than sending checks. Poor people need training. Their children need baby-sitters. Their employers often demand subsidies. According to the Congressional Budget Office, the financing of the Republicans' own bill is sufficiently short that fewer than 15 states will meet their employment goals.

"If you're going to say everyone is going to work, like John is saying, it's going to be very expensive," said Representative James Talent, a Missouri Republican and a leader of the illegitimacy camp. A more telling experiment may soon be under way in Wisconsin, which is planning a similar work program that will cover all of its 60,000 recipients.

Ms. Shalala pointed to the expense as an argument for Federal involvement. If welfare remains an entitlement, Federal spending will rise with need; under block grants, Federal spending remains fixed.

But Mr. Engler wants more state control and less liberal chortling after decades of Federal inaction. "She's out on the fringe left," he said. "I'm in the mainstream. I run a program and she doesn't."



Jim West/Impact Visuals

The plan offers services to welfare mothers, like Rachel Cornish of Detroit.

Join Up: Annals Of Default

Continued from page 1

particularly the newer members, seem more interested in revolutionizing the Government than helping it run. To hear some of them talk, getting their way on the budget is far more important than the question of whether the Government can pay its bills.

It is as if General Motors were now being run by people who were totally disdainful of cars, believing that America would be much better off if horses and buggies were still the primary mode of transportation. They might have a point, but it is not the kind of attitude that would appeal to investors who had lent money to G.M.

A Movable Ceiling

The United States, of course, has not run out of borrowing power. Its credit is still good, and the interest rates it must pay are not high. But the politicians years ago established a "ceiling" on the national debt.

The Government continues to run deficits, spending money duly authorized by Congress. And that has meant periodic votes were needed to raise the ceiling. When the Republicans were out of power, a lot of them got used to voting against such increases, figuring that that would sound good back home. The Congressional leadership managed to always push them through anyway.

Now the Republicans are running the place, and many of them are still tempted to vote against any increases. Congress first passed an increase last year full of provisions that President Clinton could not stomach. The Republicans knew it would be vetoed, as it was. The President wanted a clean increase, but the Republicans were loath to give up their most potent weapon.

To bond investors watching all this, it is a little like a teen-ager threatening to run away from home and never return, unless he is allowed to stay out late on Saturday night. The threat is far out of proportion to the issues being debated.

Robert Sobel, a business history professor at Hofstra University, argues that French investors still like to own gold, and are still nervous about default, partly because the French revolutionary government repudiated royal debt more than two centuries ago. "It's not something you forget," he said.

The Treasury had a brush with default after the panic of 1893. In those days, gold stood behind the dollar, and the Government was required to pay out gold to anyone who wanted to buy it with dollars. At one point in 1894, there was not enough gold to cover checks that had been issued. The day was saved by J. P. Morgan, the investment banker, who sold Government bonds in Europe to buyers who promised not to seek gold from the United States.

Revolution? Chaos? What's the problem in Washington?

A Phantom Default

By some reckonings, there was a real default on Treasury obligations during the Depression — a default that was never rectified. The Government decided that devaluing the dollar would help the economy, and that meant breaking the promise that the dollars used to pay off bonds would be worth a constant amount in gold. "They unilaterally changed the terms and conditions on which they would repay the money," said David Beers, a managing director of Standard & Poor's. "That's a default." The fact that the Supreme Court, on a 5-to-4 vote, upheld the decision does not change that fact, he argues.

The Federal Government had a brush with default last fall. Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin warned that default was imminent before he decided that he could legally raid some trust funds to put off default. Some Republicans, furious that he had frustrated their tactic of using default to pressure President Clinton, talked of impeaching Mr. Rubin. How dare the Treasury Secretary not let the Government default?

Last week, Mr. Rubin said his hat was out of rabbits, and that if Congress did not raise the debt ceiling by Feb. 29, the United States would default. Republican leaders said they would avert default, but it was clear they expected to get something out of President Clinton in return. Moody's Investors Service, another bond rating service, said it was thinking about lowering the Government's bond rating.

Nonetheless, interest rates on Government borrowings have not gone up much in recent weeks, a fact some Republicans have seized on. "No one seriously believes the U.S. cannot pay its debts," said Jeffrey S. Given, an economist with the Congressional Joint Economic Committee who argues that rates would have skyrocketed if people were alarmed about a possible default.

At a minimum, default is no longer unthinkable. But if there is a default, it is something that will not soon be forgotten. Treasury bills, which are short-term Government borrowings, would no longer be viewed so confidently as risk-free investments. That could force the Treasury to pay more to borrow even after the Government has resumed meeting its obligations, making it harder to lower the deficit. And cutting the deficit, after all, was the goal in playing chicken with the Federal debt.

State of the Speech

It's All in the Ear of the Beholder

By TODD S. PURDUM

WASHINGTON

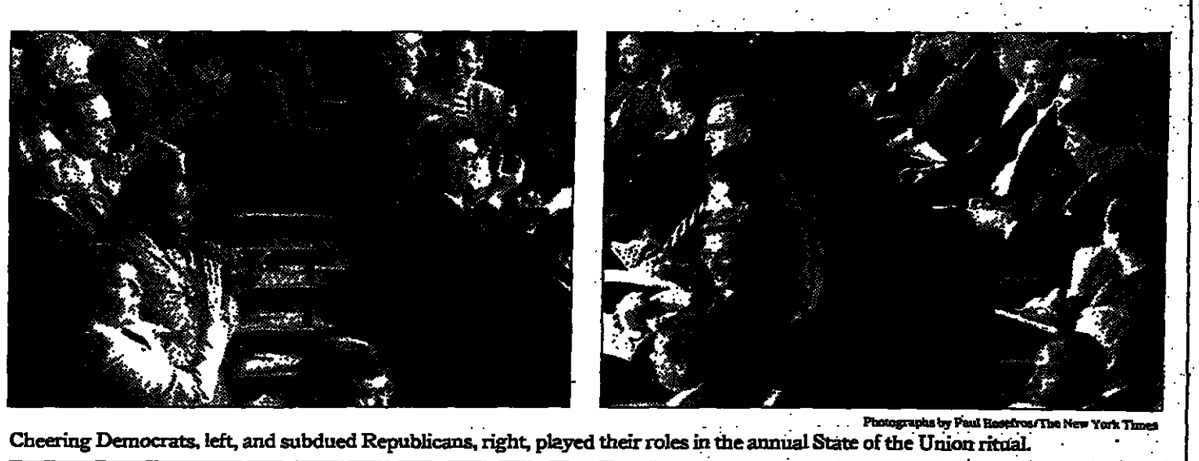
THE President stood at the rostrum of the House of Representatives, supporting a tax credit for families with children, and outlining five goals for the American people, from raising the standard of living to preserving natural resources.

"We are determined that every citizen of this nation shall have an equal right and equal opportunity to grow in wisdom and in stature and to take his place in the control of his nation's destiny," the President said.

The President stood at the rostrum of the House of Representatives, supporting a tax credit for families with children, and outlining seven challenges for the American people, from raising the minimum wage to preserving the environment.

"Our goal must be to enable all our people to make the most of their own lives with stronger families, more educational opportunity, economic security, safer streets, a cleaner environment and a safer world," the President said.

The first President was Harry S. Truman, in his 1948 State of the Union address, at the beginning of his comeback election year. The second was Bill Clinton at the beginning of what he hopes will be his own comeback last week.



Photographs by Paul Hosefros/The New York Times

Cheering Democrats, left, and subdued Republicans, right, played their roles in the annual State of the Union ritual.

The Annual Ritual

Their situations are different. But their similar sentiments show a truth of modern American political ritual: Presidents come and Presidents go, but the State of the Union speech just keeps rolling along.

"It's a big old showboat going down the river," said Peggy Noonan, who helped write her share of speeches for Ronald Reagan in the 1980's. "It's not the fastest thing, or the prettiest, but when it's going by, everybody stops and watches."

Yet the speech has become remarkable not nearly so much for what is said as for how it is heard, and how it projects against the landscape. And it is heard and seen very differently from year to year.

For example, the laundry list of priorities in Mr. Clinton's hourlong speech last Tuesday — which was generally praised — was nearly identical to the list in his 81-minute marathon of last year — which was panned by the pundits, though not the public. In both, he called for overhauling welfare and campaign finance laws, consolidating Federal job training programs, restoring civility and cracking down on teenage pregnancy and violence in the media, often in nearly the same words.

So what was the difference, besides 20 minutes? The biggest was that Mr. Clinton's political fortunes have revived a good deal in the last 12 months, even as those of the Republican Congress have stalled.

Yet the President's very repetition also shows the limits of his power. He recited his agenda for the umpteenth time in part because so much of it remains unachieved at the hands of hostile Congresses (Republican *and* Democratic).

Then, too, in an age of increasingly short attention spans, repetition is good politics. The White House assumes that hardly anyone remembers the details of last year's speech, and it knows that this year's was the last time that Mr. Clinton will have such a purely Presidential platform before the campaign begins in earnest. So he took his best shot replaying his greatest hits; the line about violence in the media was one of the highest-scoring sections in public opinion surveys after the speech last year, so why not give it another whirl?

The Constitution merely requires that the President report annually to Congress, not that he do so in person, and Thomas Jefferson began a century-long tradition of sending only written messages. But Woodrow Wilson, the professor-turned-politician and master rhetorician, revived the personal appearance in 1913, and the custom has been followed by every President since.

Offering Great Thoughts

The State of the Union has been used for great statecraft. James Monroe used one of his to announce the Monroe Doctrine, warning European powers to keep their hands off the Americas. Theodore Roosevelt used his first to launch his campaign against rapacious big business.

But more often, in the modern era, the address has been the occasion for dutiful enumeration of priorities. In the television era, the occasion has become something else: the single most splendid setting (outside the inaugural) for displaying the President in all his Presidentiality. As such, it is seldom a speechwriter's dream.

"I always regarded it as something of a chore," said Theodore C. Sorenson, who labored on President Kennedy's. "It seems to have substantially evolved as a ritual from where it was 35 years ago, with the clearest change being the gimmickry of having a hero seated in the gallery with the First Lady, which began with Reagan. I guess it's high drama, but whether it adds to the dignity, I don't know."

Mr. Sorenson said Mr. Clinton's deftest trick was to borrow Republican notions on crime and values, then embrace them with his own caveats so as to make them his own. "It made it clear that the Clinton position was not a difference in objective or principle so much as it was a difference in methods and means," Mr. Sorenson said, "and the public's increasingly coming around to his point of view."

Ms. Noonan, as befits a Republican, gave the President points for trying, but mostly dismissed the speech as remarkable for its unremarkability.

"Last year's State of the Union was actually historically bad," she said. "This time, he came on, he kept himself to an hour, and he kept himself together and he seemed to stay with his text. And he seemed, God bless him, if no one else had faith in what he was saying, he had faith in it."

"It'll go into the big books of State of the Union addresses," she predicted, "and history will never again refer to it."

هكذا من الأصل

The Nation

Now, How Low Can Crime Go?

By CLIFFORD KRAUSS

"AT last, we have begun to find a way to reduce crime," President Clinton proclaimed in his State of the Union address last week. He was only the latest to join a chorus of self-congratulation heard from cities around the country.

Seattle's murder rate dropped by 32 percent last year, St. Louis's by 18 percent. New York's decline in major crimes, including a two-year, 40 percent plunge in homicides, is so liberating that Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani can consider a cut of 1,000 officers in the 38,000-member force to save the city $30 million.

With policing becoming more effective, the crack-cocaine epidemic subsiding, and longer prison sentences incapacitating offenders, criminologists expect that crime rates may continue to head lower for a few more years, even if more slowly.

But looked at from a longer view, the country continues to suffer through the most prolonged crime wave since the days of the wild West — not only homicide, which is the most reliably reported crime, but also such offenses as robbery and burglary.

Between World War II and 1963, the nation's homicide rate hovered between four and five murders for every 100,000 people. It started climbing in 1964 and by 1973 had reached nearly 10 for every 100,000 people. Since 1973, the rate has oscillated between 8 and 10 per 100,000 people.

New York's tally of 1,182 murders last year is a wonder to behold compared to the 2,245 reported as recently as 1990, despite minimal population change; it was enough to propel Police Commissioner William J. Bratton onto the cover of Time magazine. But compared to the 390 murders in 1960, or even the 986 in 1968, the murder rate in 1995 still conjures images of Dodge City.

The provocative "law and order" campaigns of George Wallace and Richard Nixon in 1968 came at a time when crime reached proportions that we now either seem to consider acceptable or intractable.

"Everyone is crowing about what is going on in New York," said Lawrence M. Friedman, a historian of criminal justice at Stanford University Law School, "but we remain at a very high plateau."

Reversible Rates

Can the country return to the crime rates of the Eisenhower and Kennedy years? And if it cannot, what has made the march of crime so difficult to reverse?

If American history is any guide, crime waves are reversible. When Johnny came marching home again after the Civil War — a period at least as revolutionary as the 1960's — he faced joblessness and he all too often took out his frustrations with his new-found martial skills. But the country's cities calmed by the mid-1870's. The upswing of violent crime accompanying the wave of immigration at the turn of the century, and then Prohibition in the 1920's, was much longer lasting, but it quickly ran out in the early 1930's.

Most criminologists, however, are doubtful that a similar criminal retreat will occur again because the current crime wave has many more and more intractable causes.

One reason crime went up sharply in the 1960's was that an extraordinarily large number of young men, born immediately after World War II, grew into their crime-prone years. That would explain, at least in part, the upward surge in the homicide rate between 1963 and 1973 — though it does not explain the persistence of the high rates ever since; in New York, crime rose in the late 1980's as the number of teen-agers declined.

Some say the primary cause for the lasting increase in violence is the proliferation of guns. Juvenile delinquents wielded switchblades in the 1950's, graduated to Saturday night specials in the 1960's and took up 9-millimeter semi-automatic handguns and even assault rifles in the late 1980's.

Some contend that the proliferation of guns cannot fully explain the crime increases, noting the surges in burglary, auto theft and grand larceny — crimes commonly committed without firepower. This argument usually notes, too, that 70 percent of the nation's violent juvenile prison population comes from broken families, implicating a slew of social dislocations that accelerated in the 1960's.

No Turning Back

"We can't go back to 1963," said James Alan Fox, a criminologist at Northeastern University, "in terms of removing millions of guns from the streets, in terms of bringing back the traditional American family, in terms of restoring religion to its former prominence, in terms of restoring educational institutions to their former prominence, in terms of changing the way we portray crime in the media."

Crime rates, perhaps even more than such other indicators as the birth and inflation rates, can reflect a wide range of social and economic conditions. But the fact that the murder rate has more than doubled since 1963 does not mean that the society is doubly worse off. Crime rates are just another indication of how much the society has changed — some ways for the bad; some, arguably, for the good.

Through the 1950's and 1960's, television widened the national audience for many forms of culture, but many social scientists suggest that by replacing dinner conversation with westerns and police shows it glorified violence and helped erode family cohesion. Likewise, the sexual revolution and the destigmatization of divorce and illegitimacy were liberating for some and destructive for others.

"Crime is a barometer of social disorganization," said Professor Friedman.

No group has felt that barometer more than blacks. About half of the prison population is black, according to the Justice Department. Victimization rates are also high in black communities; in about 80 percent of all serious crimes, the offender and victim are of the same race.

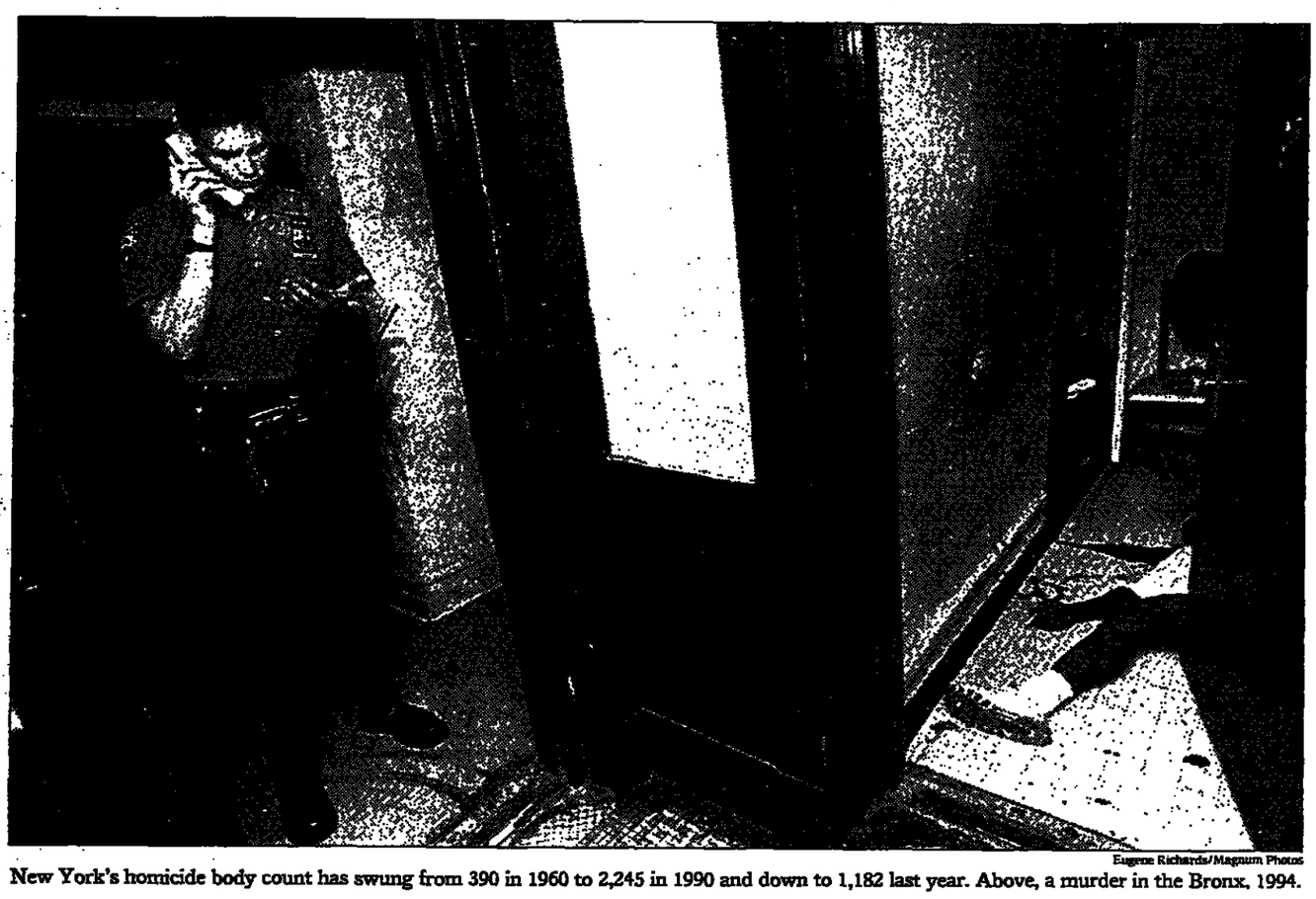
Along with all the good that the civil rights movement achieved in the 1960's, Alfred Blumstein, a criminologist at Carnegie Mellon University, noted that it also "contributed to the breakdown of respect for authority and it provided the opportunity for the black middle class to escape the ghetto — thereby removing an important force of social control there." That development became interwoven with the flight of manufacturing jobs from the inner cities and the surge in heroin use.

Decades of Drugs

Drug crimes also rose among whites, of course, as experimentation with hallucinogens and amphetamines gave way to the upscale cocaine epidemic of the late 1970's and 1980's. While drug use is less fashionable now, heroin appears to be gaining a mystique in some of the same social circles.

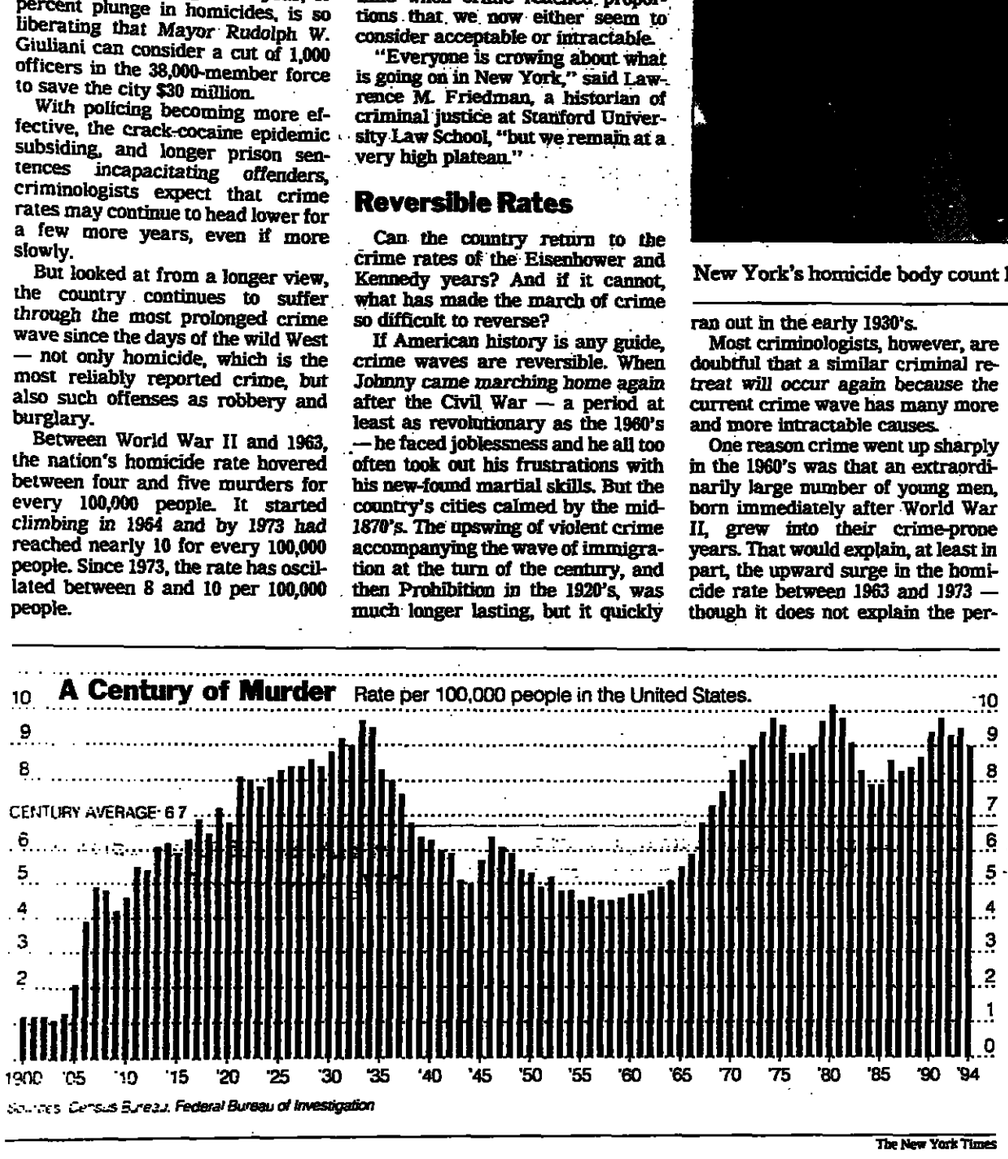
James Q. Wilson, a professor at the University of California at Los Angeles, argues that the increases in crime rates since the early 60's, in the United States as in most of the industrialized world, represent "the completion of the West's long-term effort to emancipate the individual, freeing people from the controls of family, neighborhood, schools, villages."

To return to the levels of the 1950's, Mr. Wilson said, "you would either have to invest so massively in law enforcement as to strain our fiscal and constitutional restrictions or abandon our commitment to the emancipated individual and return to a quite different culture."



Eugene Richards/Magnum Photos

New York's homicide body count has swung from 390 in 1960 to 2,245 in 1990 and down to 1,182 last year. Above, a murder in the Bronx, 1994.



To the Right Stuff and Back

By WILLIAM J. BROAD

A DECADE after the Challenger disaster, it is easy to think of Christa McAuliffe as an aberration, as NASA's sole attempt to get beyond the right-stuff syndrome, to enlarge the boundaries of the astronaut corps. The high-school teacher from Concord, N. H., who climbed aboard the space shuttle Challenger at Cape Canaveral on the cold morning of Jan. 28, 1986, hoped to share what she called "the ultimate field trip" with the nation's children, instructing them on the wonders of weightlessness and the riddles of the starry unknown. She seemed to symbolize a first step in demystifying space travel and opening the experience to all people.

But she was not the first. Since Americans began blasting into space 35 years ago, the definition of what it takes to be an astronaut has gone through slow cycles of change, not unlike fashion. There have been times when NASA favored the idea that only the macho could be astronauts and times when it favored the idea that anyone could be. After the Challenger disaster, NASA dropped the democratic ideal of space travel. But now, realistically or not, NASA is starting to talk once again about sending new generations of neophytes into orbit, including tourists.

At the start of the space program, as recounted in Tom Wolfe's classic book "The Right Stuff," or more recently in the movie "Apollo 13," the ideal astronaut was a skilled fighter jock with steely nerves, always cool, always laconic. The test and fighter pilots who worked for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration loved risk. But the debut in 1982 of the winged spaceships changed all that.

With the advent of reusable shuttles, a myth of ordinariness took hold. At a ceremony on July 4, 1982, President Ronald Reagan hailed the shuttle fleet as operational after only four test flights. Do-or-die astronauts were joined by astronauts of increasing diversity — a Saudi prince, a Mexican engineer, a French pilot. In 1985 Senator Jake Garn soared into space, and in 1986, on the eve of the Challenger disaster, so did Representative Bill Nelson, then chairman of the House space subcommittee, which oversaw NASA's budget. Many reporters covering the Challenger launch were candidates in NASA's journalist-in-space program.

Challenger's seven crew members epitomized the trend toward diversity. One was black. One was Asian-American. Two were women. Three were space rookies, eager to explore the high frontier and talk about mankind's destiny in space. Among the 2,500 guests invited by NASA to attend the liftoff were 112 teachers, finalists from the shuttle competition, who were to spread the word about space exploration. More than 800 reporters wanted to cover the mission, a huge surge from past flights. For NASA, it was very good stuff indeed.

Back to Basics

But the Challenger disaster, in which all seven astronauts died, threw the agency back to basics. In 1988, the first shuttle crew to return to orbit was a study in the right stuff — male, white, ex-military, macho. The commander of the shuttle, Capt. Frederick H. Hauck of the Navy, had flown 114 combat sorties in Southeast Asia and on one occasion had bailed out of a burning jet seconds before it crashed. "It was interesting," he once recalled in an interview, clearly relishing the memory of risk.

Since the Challenger disaster, NASA has successfully flown 49 shuttle missions, has regained confidence and has begun, once again, to broaden its definition of a good astronaut. Though members of the public are still ruled out, women and foreigners fly often. Increasingly, the White House uses the shuttle as a patronage tool. In 1994, when President Clinton promised to send into orbit an astronaut from the Ukraine, he was trying to persuade the Ukraine to return its nuclear arms to Moscow. And last month, when Mr. Clinton announced a plan to invite astronauts from Israel along the next shuttle flight, he was symbolically backing up an ally engaged in a delicate peace process..

Shuttle Diplomacy

Today, NASA is planning a new generation of reusable spaceships that could make their debut around 2005 and that are supposed to approach the kind of reliability that airlines enjoy. As the United States becomes the main link to an international space outpost that is to supposed to orbit from 1997 to at least 2012, filled with rotating crews of scientists from America, Russia, Europe, Canada, Japan, Israel and other nations, safety becomes a matter of political necessity as well as national pride. And the romance of the right stuff becomes a thing of the past.

But what if the new spaceship fails to measure up to the sales pitch, as was clearly the case with the nation's $85 billion fleet of shuttles? Then it's time for yet another round of the right stuff.



Associated Press

Chuck Yeager had the right stuff.



Keith Meyers/The New York Times

Christa McAuliffe had the common touch.

A Bribe Is a Bribe Unless It Isn't

Continued from page 1

ings," Mr. Brand said.

But one serious scandal that captures the nation's attention could push the public perception of campaign contributions closer to bribery, Mr. Brand said. "The law, unfortunately, in this town is scandal driven," he said. "If the facts were good enough and egregious enough, some prosecutor will be emboldened."

Senator Bob Packwood, the Oregon Republican who resigned amid a sexual harassment scandal, might have provided such a case had he stayed on, Mr. Brand said. The Senator's diaries contained details of favors done for donors and lobbyists, including supporting a tax measure that the Shell Oil Company wanted. Meanwhile, the Shell lobbyist was raising funds for Mr. Packwood.

Despite the onus of pressing a bribery charge in relation to a campaign contribution, such cases are not unknown. In recent years an elaborate sting by the Federal authorities in Sacramento led to the convictions of five legislators on racketeering charges that included taking contributions in return for supporting a piece of legislation. The authorities introduced a fake bill in the legislature that was supposed to give a bogus company the right to issue industrial bonds. Agents posing as lobbyists then contacted legislators anticipating that some might request bribes. Although some did, a number asked for campaign contributions. The prosecutors wondered whether to go ahead with cases that would be difficult to prove.

Hard to Prove

The courts have struggled with the campaign-contribution issue for years. In 1991, in the case of a West Virginia politician the Supreme Court ruled that prosecutors had to show an explicit connection between the donation and an official act.

"These are tough cases to prove," said George L. O'Connell, the former United States Attorney in Sacramento who prosecuted the bribery cases. "We were in the position of passing on the prosecution of what clearly were bribes." The Government decided to prosecute and the legislators were convicted.

The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals agreed with Mr. O'Connell's argument that when the Supreme Court demanded "explicit" evidence of a quid pro quo, it did not necessarily mean "expressed." The politicians could not escape liability with "winks and nods" instead of words, the court said.

> A Federal sting caught legislators who traded votes for bribes — or contributions.

Even with the more liberal standard, elected officials need not fear a flood of prosecutions. Such cases rely heavily on undercover operations or the testimony of at least one participant to the deal, testimony that is very difficult to get, Mr. O'Connell said.

"There is a code of silence among the people who are participants in the political culture that astonished me at the time, and continues to astonish me," he said. The most a prosecutor can hope to do, he said, is press the occasional case as a warning to others.

"The criminal law is an extremely blunt instrument for obtaining political reform," Mr. O'Connell said. "You cannot reform a system by prosecuting people."

The World

Survival and Suicide in Russia's Shadow

By YO'AV KARNY

IN the fall of 1994, shortly before Russia attacked Chechnya to smother its rebellion, I called on Ahmed Mudarov, in a small village outside of Grozny, the Chechen capital. Mr. Mudarov had just turned 102, or so said his passport. A Chechen friend who introduced me whispered in my ear: "He's cheating. He's actually 106."

Mr. Mudarov, surprisingly erect and lucid, talked about a day in February 1944, when Soviet officers came knocking, Stalin's decree in hand. The entire Chechen nation was to be deported to Central Asia, for collective "collaboration" with Nazi Germany. Five of Mr. Mudarov's children, too sick to travel, were executed on the spot. Calmly, he related how one son, bleeding to death, begged for his help. "I cannot help," replied the father, who was wounded but survived, and was then deported himself. His wife and last surviving child vanished in exile.

The deportation technique — squeezing a whole nation into sealed cattle cars, with no water or food, and transferring it to the "East," ostensibly for "resettlement" but with the clear hope of wiping it out — was a horror that could only stir an Israeli Jew like me. I had been brought up to believe that nursing the memory of ancient heroism, however suicidal, was the way to exorcise the shame of being shipped in cattle cars. Who could better understand Chechen intransigence than a member of what Israelis used to call "the generation of Holocaust and Redemption?"

And yet, unlike the Jews, the Chechens are still seeking independent nationhood along with public recognition that they are the victims of genocide. And the Russian fury still being unleashed against them suggests that the Russians, unlike the Germans, have few guilt feelings.

The survivors of Stalin's deportation were finally allowed to return 13 years later, under Khrushchev, having lost in the process perhaps one-third of the original population of 450,000. Mr. Mudarov, now the oldest surviving deportee, was nearly 70 when he remarried, and went on to father eight more children. The entire nation, disarmed and demoralized, opted for a nonviolent form of defiance: It was busy reproducing, a traditional preparation for the next battle.

Yo'av Karny, an Israeli journalist now based in Washington, has traveled extensively in the Caucasus and has written frequently about the national movements there.



Elder, since killed in war, leads the ritual above.

MY journey to Chechnya took place as the Chechens were marking the 50th anniversary of their deportation. Street placards displayed the number 50, drawn in blood, against a burning home and a wailing wolf, a national Chechen symbol. I wanted to find out whether the memory of their tribulations had injected a greater amount of realism into Chechen veins, whether they might have mellowed to the point of acknowledging that they are doomed to live in Russia's shadow.

Russia was making increasingly threatening noises, demanding the removal of President Dzhokhar M. Dudayev, who in 1991 proclaimed Chechen independence. One day, as I was talking to a crowd of men in Grozny's main square, one, tall and trim, wearing a black rimmed hat, suddenly drew a long Caucasian dagger, waved it, and exclaimed: "I will aim this at the Russian tanks, if they dare come."

"What do you think would happen," I asked incredulously, "if you do that?" The man shot back: "I will die. I, and the entire nation with me." Exasperated, I turned to the crowd and said: "I have read a good deal about your history. For two centuries you have been dying, and dying, and dying. Hasn't the time come to start living?" The crowd roared disapprovingly. "No one lets us," snapped an elderly man.

I videotaped the scene, and recently watched it again. What seemed at the time a hollow threat has turned out to be a statement of fact. Clearly, the Chechens have been using more than daggers. But their acts of defiance, so costly to Russia's army, only reaffirm the national bent toward suicidal heroism.

In Grozny I also met an avowed opponent of the Dudayev regime, Shamil Benno, a Chechen born in Jordan in 1959. Mr. Benno is a soft-spoken intellectual whose master's thesis was devoted to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. He had resigned his post as Mr. Dudayev's first Foreign Minister and joined the growing civilian opposition to a President known for his brutal intolerance of political dissent. Mr. Benno is no romantic, and he doesn't seek to glorify his people's stubbornness. But he knows their history.



Photographs by Yo'av Karny

Sufism, a mystical branch of Islam, helps unify the Chechens, as in this dance ritual in prewar Grozny.

"Have you ever seen an ancient society such as ours," he asked, "whose members never take their hats off when they meet? Do you know why? Because leaving the hat on is a matter of exercising our freedom. Ours was one of very few societies which, as early as the 15th century, did away with social stratification and installed complete egalitarianism: no kings, no princes, no aristocrats, no hats off."

Mr. Benno told of his first encounter with American visitors while he was Foreign Minister. "They handed me two gifts — the Yellow Pages of the Washington political establishment and a collection of the Federalists' writings. I thanked them for the phone directory. As for the Federalists, I told them we had had a long experience with a federation."

"The only federal choice the Russians had ever offered us," he added, "was between assimilation and annihilation."

A century earlier, Mr. Benno's family and others turned down an opportunity to become Russians, departed by foot, and settled in the desert east of the Jordan River. In 1922, the Chechens became nation builders for the new country Britain was creating there, and quite a few Bennos rose to prominence in Jordanian government service, including Mr. Benno's father. Still, in 1970 he decided it was time to go home, to a Chechnya he had never seen.

The Chechens of Jordan offer a most interesting lesson in survival against long odds. Although a mere 12,000 in a country of nearly 4 million, most still speak their ancestral language, they still tend to marry within the Chechen community, and they continuously long for the "daymokhk" or fatherland.

One night, in a house overlooking Amman, I met a few leaders of their community. After a long interview, they had a question for me: "How could we make our case better known to Americans?" I advised them to talk less about their nation's heroism and more about its suffering. They might want to capitalize on Americans' traditional sympathy for the underdog. My hosts, some of them graduates of American universities, declined. "We can never be helpless victims," said one. "We are Chechen."

I fell silent. I remembered what I had been told in Grozny by the young head of Chechnya's national archives, when I asked him about "the Chechen suicidal propensities." He smiled faintly and said in a resigned tone, "A member of a different culture always finds it difficult to understand why it is that people who know they are bound to lose the battle would still wage a war against a much superior enemy."

He produced a European edition of "The Gulag Archipelago," by Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, and read aloud its reference to the Chechens: "Only one nation refused to accept the psychology of submission." These people, the text continued, never "tried to be of service or to please the authorities . . . The authorities who owned the country for 30 years could not force them to respect their laws."

The professor looked at me and added: "You may never be able to understand this. Spartacus and Garibaldi, Tolstoy and Lord Byron would have understood it quite easily."

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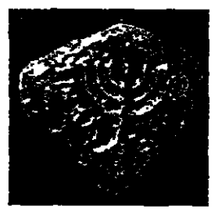


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Picking Out a Russian

Continued from page 1

faced, heart-damaged, Chechnya-wounded Mr. Yeltsin.

Parsed, Mr. Christopher's statement means that Mr. Yeltsin or any other Russian President should stay a reformer if he wants a good relationship with the United States, let alone $9 billion in needed loans over three years from a suddenly panicky International Monetary Fund.

The problem, though, is complicated. There is confusion over what the United States believes anymore about Russia, besides understanding that a President Gennadi Zyuganov, the head of the Communist Party, or a President Vladimir Zhirinovsky, the operatic ultranationalist, would be worse than a President Yeltsin in whatever incarnation.

Peaceful, at the Least

At the very minimum, American interests lie in a militarily peaceful Russia with no forceful designs on its newly independent neighbors of the "near abroad," let alone elsewhere. An economically stable Russia is considered a less dangerous country. So is a Russia willing to cooperate on nuclear nonproliferation and arms control. But all this is far from the kind of "Marshall Plan" alliance that some in both countries thought possible when the Soviet Union collapsed.

Clinton Administration officials, after early euphoria about "partnership," have steadily diluted the definition of "reform" and "reformer" to match Mr. Yeltsin's now-accelerated shift away from Western-style market economics. The American notion of "reform" is now so stretched, like an old elastic band, that it can encompass almost anyone who believes in keeping inflation below hyperinflation, won't renationalize everything and thinks it useful to have cooperative relations with the United States.

Even so, that definition can only cover three potential candidates: Mr. Yeltsin; his prime minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, who says he won't run if Mr. Yeltsin does; and Grigory A. Yavlinsky, the young economist officially nominated yesterday by the liberal Yabloko party, which got only 6.9 percent of the popular vote in last month's parliamentary elections.

American officials say hopefully that Mr. Yeltsin is just tacking for political reasons, to try against the odds to win re-election in June. That message — don't worry, be happy — will be repeated this weekend when Mr. Chernomyrdin comes to Washington for his regular semiannual meeting with Vice President Al Gore.

To win, however, Mr. Yeltsin must unite the very reformers the United States says it supports, but who have come to despise Mr. Yeltsin even before his latest self-definition as a semi-Communist caudillo.

Mr. Yavlinsky, who better fits anyone's definition of a reformer, is simply judged unable to win. American officials think that even running against the bland Mr. Zyuganov in a second-round runoff between the two top finishers, Mr. Yavlinksy would lose. So a big part of Mr. Yeltsin's task, should he make the second-round runoff, will be to attract Yavlinsky voters.

This is what Mr. Sestanovich calls "the clothespin vote": "While people are holding their noses, do they vote for the Communists or for Yeltsin?"

"The political reality is that a vote for Yavlinsky is likely to be one that keeps Yeltsin out of second place for the runoff," Mr. Sestanovich says. And the winner of the second round is likely to be decided by the disappointed supporters of Mr. Yavlinsky on one hand and Mr. Zhirinovsky on the other. "So how does Yeltsin appeal to both of these different voters at the same time?"

Mr. Yeltsin seems to think that Yavlinsky voters, and those who favor other reformers, like the former Prime Minister, Yegor Gaidar, and the sparky young governor of the Nizhny Novgorod region, Boris Nemtsov, have nowhere else to go. But Mr. Sestanovich is not so sure.

As the army rampages so ineffectively around Chechnya, Mr. Yeltsin is a much less reassuring figure than before. His problems of health and alcohol, his episodes of puzzling and embarrassing behavior, compound the damage. And no one knows how much longer he will live.

Many American officials wonder whether Mr. Yeltsin can even make it to the final round, and they know their public embrace, like the beautiful, poisoned dress Medea gave to Jason's bride, could destroy him.

"Our influence over the election is very limited," one senior Administration official said a bit wanly. "And what we have may in fact be harmful."

That's Democracy

Mr. Goble of the Potomac Foundation is dismissive of such hand-wringing. "If we believe Russia is a democracy, as the Clinton Administration keeps saying it is, then we have to accept the verdict of the voters." In many ways, he too is rooting for Mr. Yeltsin. "But I don't presume to know, if Yeltsin is President a year from now, what Yeltsin will be," he said. "In 10 years he's gone through more lives than a cat. He's not a democrat but a populist. And we do him and Russia an enormous disservice by proclaiming that everything he does is, by definition, democratic."

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FILM

In Iran, Quiet Little Films Are Speaking Volumes

By GERALDINE BROOKS



When 7-year-old Razieh, disobeying her mother, goes to watch some snake charmers, a neighborhood woman chides her for being where girls aren't supposed to be. Razieh, the character at the center of "The White Balloon," replies, "I wanted to see what it was that was not good for me to watch."

Like many current Iranian films, "The White Balloon" creeps to the very edge of what Iran's censors consider good to watch. Just beneath the surface of its deceptively simple story lies a catalogue of Iranian social ills, among them poverty, the tension between the pre- and post-revolutionary generation, racial prejudice and even hints of child abuse.

Earlier this month, in protest over a United States Government decision to support a $20 million covert plan against the Iranian Government, Iran tried to withdraw "The White Balloon" as its official entry in the best foreign-language film category for the Academy Awards. But the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences is ignoring Iran's demand. "The film was delivered here, it's eligible and we're going to screen it," says Bruce Davis, executive director of the Academy.

The attention may end up helping "The White Balloon," which is up against 40 other entrants in its category. And by leaving the film in competition, the Academy may have kept Iran from gagging a star witness in its own defense. Jafar Panahi's gentle movie, which opened on Wednesday, is itself an eloquent protest against outdated United States stereotyping of Iranians as a nation of wild-eyed Islamic extremists.

The people of "The White Balloon" are neighborhood folks: shopkeepers and housewives concerned with getting the next meal on the table and arriving at the in-laws' place on time. In this, and in "The Jar," an Iranian film that played in New York last year about attempts to repair a cracked water jar at an impoverished desert school, small events become the stage on which larger issues are played out.

Social criticism is thus possible in current Iranian films, despite the censorship they must withstand. Each film must be approved both in screenplay and in final cut. The cast and crew must be vetted for political and religious correctness, and a rating system determines how wide and well publicized the film's release will be.

Even with these restrictions, though, Iranian films remain surprisingly severe on the subjects of Government failures and social malaise. Like the Iranian press, which is allowed to be more critical than is typical in other Middle Eastern countries, movies too are allowed to express a range of opinion. What is not allowed is sex and gratuitous violence. Perhaps it is the absence of these two Hollywood standbys that makes watching Iranian movies like "The White Balloon" so refreshing to Western audiences.

Film makers who have continued to work in Iran since the revolution may be zealous former revolutionaries like Mohsen Makhmalbaf; his 1989 film, "Marriage of the Blessed," indicted the swift marginalization of Islamic idealists in a society still run by a careless rich elite. Or they may simply be artists who have stayed to fight for the cultural soul of their country rather than emigrating in search of a more hospitable creative environment.

Iranian films, especially those by Abbas Kiarostami like "Through the Olive Trees," have been increasingly admired at international film festivals. (Mr. Kiarostami wrote the screenplay for "The White Balloon.") In April the Walter Reade Theater in New York will begin a monthlong retrospective of Mr. Kiarostami's films and showcase new Iranian movies.

Iran's mullahs haven't exactly reveled in such attention. Iran's leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, has noted that Western film juries often give prizes to movies that show Iran's poverty and distress. Of course, the same juries give prizes mainly to Western films that similarly show their society's ills. One example with which the Ayatollah Khamenei may be familiar is "Dances With Wolves," the 1990 Oscar winner for best picture, director, screenplay, original score, cinematography, editing and sound recording. It also happens to be one of the few American films that were allowed to be distributed in Teheran. It was approved because its stark portrayal of brutality toward American Indians shows the Great Satan in a bad light.

"The White Balloon," winner of the Camera d'Or for best first feature film at the 1995 Cannes Film Festival, is striking in its almost entirely secular portrayal of Iranian daily life. Apart from an early scene in which a character passes a Husseinia-Shiite prayer place, from which voices rise and fall, blessing the prophet Mohammed, the film contains no reference to Islam.

The action takes place on the eve of the Persian feast of Nowruz. After the revolution, the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, trying to elevate the importance of religious holidays, discouraged observance of this pre-Islamic New Year festival. But Shiite Islam's gloomy commemorations of martyrdom couldn't vanquish Nowruz. Despite harassment, Iranians clung to their joyful spring feast, which takes place on the equinox. These days it is observed with as much verve as ever.

For Nowruz, Iranians clean house, bathe carefully and don new clothes — symbolic rituals in which they slough off any lingering ills from the old year. The table is decorated with a mirror, candle and white foods. Light, fire and white are all representative of God in Zoroastrianism, the ancient Persian religion. In an echo of the ceremonial foods of the Jewish springtime Passover table, Persians assemble seven foods whose names begin with the letter S, like sabzi — green herbs symbolizing nature's springtime rebirth. There must also be a goldfish bowl, with the goldfish representing the mystery and joy of life.

It is the quest of Razieh (played by Aida Mohammadkhani) for a plump "dancing" goldfish that propels the action of "The White Balloon."

Iranian films often have child protagonists, to avoid the mine field of Islamic restrictions on the portrayal of adult male-female relationships. Actors portraying a married couple, for instance, cannot touch each other on screen unless they are also married in real life because it is a violation of Islam for unrelated men and women to touch. And actresses, like all Iranian women over the age of 9, must cover all the hair and curves of the body, even in scenes depicting private moments in the home where, in real life, every woman sheds her Islamic coverings. In addition, there cannot be any extended close-ups of attractive actresses, because that might be construed as exploiting female beauty.



Film Forum



Miramax

"The Jar," above, an Iranian film, tells a simple story about a cracked water jar at a school; Tahereh Ladania, right, appears in "Through the Olive Trees," a film by Abbas Kiarostami, who wrote the screenplay for "The White Balloon."

With the 7-year-old star of "The White Balloon," this isn't an issue. The child, with her gap-toothed smile and tragic eyes, gives an incandescent performance. A critic for The Hollywood Reporter says she "displays a range of emotions that would stymie Meryl Streep."

Razieh nags her mother into letting her buy the goldfish, then accidentally drops the money down a sidewalk grate and persuades various passers-by to help her retrieve it. Alternately kvetching and sobbing, then lit up with hope and delight, Razieh has an intensity that drags the viewer back into the sometimes terrible realm of childhood, where the loss of a few dollars can be a catastrophe.

The film is shot almost entirely in tight frames that mimic a child's-eye view of the world; it is unpanoramic, with the focal point always on what is close and immediate. At times the frames have the intimate feel of Persian miniatures, with Teheran's weathered mud bricks providing the geometrically patterned background and impassive onlookers gazing from the sidelines at the doings of the passionate protagonists.

The film works almost flawlessly at its superficial level, re-creating the ardent intensity of childhood in a sometimes oblivious adult world. But there is so much more going on here. Each of Razieh's encounters contains a small, ominous aside. Together these add up to a profile of the quiet desperation of ordinary Iranian lives in a society ravaged by revolution, war and international isolation.

In the early scenes, Razieh's nagging is as relentlessly maddening as a midnight car alarm. It is evident that her mother (played by Fereshteh Sadr Orfani), bustling to finish the shopping and cleaning in time for the New Year feast, is a victim of holiday stress. For one thing, she can't afford new shoes for her son — the Nowruz equivalent of not being able to provide the major item on a Christmas list. For another, her husband, who appears in the film only as a bellowing voice, flinging soap and curses from the bathroom, keeps up a constant flow of distracting demands.

Like many economically struggling Teheranis, the meter-reader husband has a second job. But what he does to make ends meet is kept secret because it is somehow shameful or illicit.

Economic hardship is explored again when Razieh meets a lonely young conscript from the provinces who can't get home for New Year because he lacks the bus fare. Other social pressures emerge. An elderly tailor is intimidated by a young client of the post-revolutionary generation who knows how to use the new system against the old-timers. A young Afghan refugee is abused, used, then thanklessly abandoned in the film's haunting final scene. And there is a suggestion that Razieh's father may have punched her brother in the face.

Perhaps to emphasize the characters' isolation, almost everybody speaks with a non-Teherani accent. As in the film "Moscow on the Hudson," when every New Yorker turned out to be from someplace else, the Teheranis in "The White Balloon" speak Farsi accented by Polish, Turkish and thick regional patois.

Mr. Panahi, the 35-year-old director of "The White Balloon," was to have visited the United States to promote the film during its American release. Instead, friends say he is "location scouting" in the provinces and could not be reached to comment on the attempted withdrawal of his film from Oscar consideration.

Previously, Mr. Panahi has identified the sequence in which Razieh watches the snake charmers as one of his favorites. The scene, he said, was drawn straight from his own childhood, when he defied his father to sneak into "unsuitable" films. Like Razieh, he too "wanted to see what it was that was not good for me to watch."

Existential Androids

By ERIC P. NASH

SCIENCE fiction, which started out on the edges of literature and pulp fiction, has become more than mainstream; it is now an essential way of interpreting the world. Science-fiction films express everything from awe in the face of medical and technological advances to unease about the role of computers in our lives.

"Screamers," which opened Friday, is the latest film based on the work of the cult author Philip K. Dick, in this case a short story called "The Second Variety." Like "Blade Runner" and "Total Recall," two other films derived from his stories, "Screamers" goes to the heart of what constitutes humanity.

In "Screamers," directed by Christian Duguay and starring Peter Weller and Jennifer Rubin, two Earth armies engage in a relentless war of attrition on a far-flung mining colony of the future. The war is fought by machines called screamers: razor-tipped robotic horrors that hunt down anything with a heartbeat and rip it to shreds. In the world of Philip K. Dick, screamers not only self-replicate but also evolve into new and more lethal forms.

But beneath the bone-crunching violence of "Screamers" and other films based on Dick's stories lie profound questions about the nature of being and the quest for authenticity that may help explain the perpetual appeal of science-fiction films to adolescents.

Dick, who died of a stroke in 1982 at the age of 53, was a kind of pulp-fiction Kafka, a prophet, perhaps, or "precog," as he would have called it. Largely confined to the literary ghetto that was science fiction until the 1970's, Dick became a cult figure after his quirky novel "Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?" was made into the film "Blade Runner" by Ridley Scott in 1982. Even "Blade Runner" took a while to catch on: it was a critical and box-office failure, but its complex view of the man-machine relationship still serves as the prototype for newer films like Kathryn Bigelow's "Strange Days."

Ronald Shusett, who was the producer and a co-author of the screenplay of "Total Recall," knows something about Dick's peculiar odyssey into the cultural mainstream: it took Mr. Shusett 16 years to bring "Total Recall," based on the Dick story "We Can Recall It for You Wholesale," from script to screen in 1990. The film was directed by Paul Verhoeven.

"Nobody in Hollywood knew or cared about Philip K. Dick when I optioned the story in 1974 for $1,000," Mr. Shusett recalls. It was another decade before Hollywood caught up to the story's premise of implanting an artificial memory into someone's mind. "Back then, people said, 'That's absurd,'" Mr. Shusett says. But the advent of virtual reality in the late 1980's convinced them to reconsider.

Dan O'Bannon, the screenwriter who worked on "Screamers" and "Total Recall" as well as "Alien" and "Dark Star," says he, too, finds

A glimpse into how technology has changed consciousness.

an appeal in the author's deeply splintered world view. "Dick's theme is the unreliability of reality," says Mr. O'Bannon. "His primary moral concern is the nature of what it is to be human."

■

Dick Himself was all too human. Everything in his life was excessive. He churned out 35 novels and 6 volumes of short stories in his lifetime (more were published posthumously, so almost everything Dick wrote is in print). He was married and divorced five times, consumed amphetamines like candy and lapsed into paranoid schizophrenic episodes. The last years of his life were dedicated to writing an uncategorizable and nearly impenetrable "Exegesis" of his thoughts about time and matter as a result of what he called a divine revelation in 1974. Dick died just before "Blade Runner" was released.

While science fiction is no sure-fire formula for success, it appeals to Hollywood as a way to tap into moviegoers' fears and fantasies about the future. Tellingly, of the 20 top-grossing films of all time, 11 are based on science-fiction themes.

"Science fiction is the broadest audience there," Mr. Shusett declares, "because it combines action movies with wild imagination and appeals to the intellectual as well as the visceral."

The surprise hit "Stargate," starring Kurt Russell, grossed more than $70 million in 1994, whetting the audience's appetite for new science-fiction productions like "Screamers" and Terry Gilliam's critically acclaimed new time-travel epic, "12 Monkeys."

Forthcoming releases include the $60 million thriller "Independence Day," by Roland Emmerich ("Stargate"), about an alien invasion of Earth, due in the summer, and "Mars Attacks!," Tim Burton's homage to lurid science-fiction films of the 1950's, due in the fall. In April, Triumph Films, the company releasing "Screamers," will have "Solo," a film starring Mario Van Peebles as an android fighting machine.

Meanwhile, stories by Philip K. Dick are becoming hotter properties in Hollywood. Oliver Stone has optioned one, Mr. O'Bannon another and Mr. Shusett is working on a production deal for one with Fox.

William Gibson, who first envisioned the look and feel of cyberspace in his seminal novel "Neuromancer" and whose short story "Johnny Mnemonic" was the basis of last year's film of the same name, says: "I can see Philip K. Dick's writing coming increasingly into its own. There was something wonderfully timeless about what he did."

The fascination with science fiction goes deeper than space opera. The subject of artificial beings striving to be human or perhaps emulating human passions raises philosophical questions about the human condition. Is "humanness" innate, or can it (should it? must it?) be cultivated? Can a properly trained android find love and happiness?

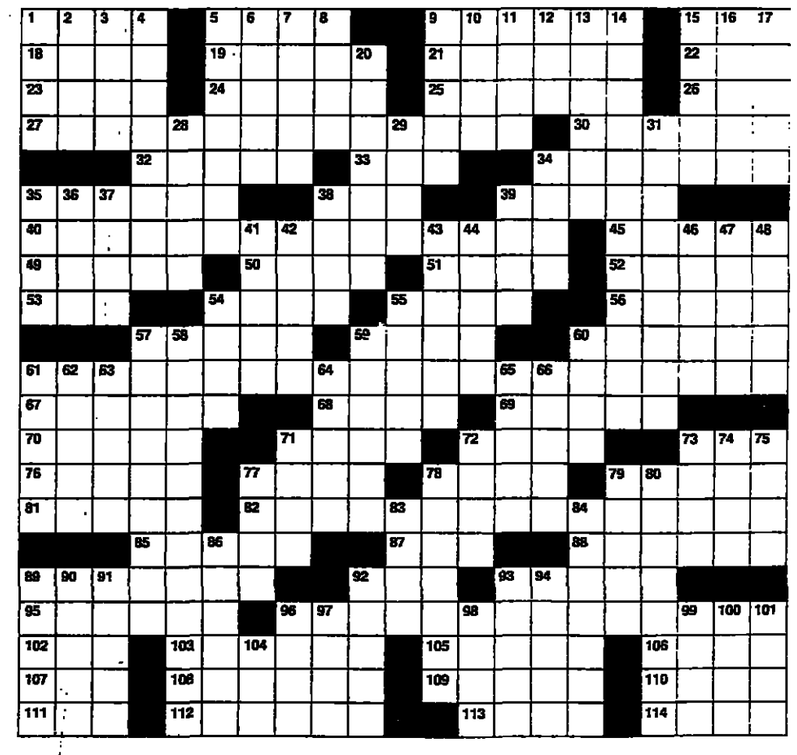
Science fiction also addresses the delusional slipperiness of the concrete world. Indeed, Mr. O'Bannon says he believes that the rapidity with which futuristic reality slips into new shapes, even new orders of being, may help prepare audiences for the disturbingly rapid change of modern-day reality.

"People who are lifetime readers of science fiction are somewhat less shellshocked by the rate of change, because they've anticipated some of this stuff," he says. As an example, Mr. O'Bannon notes that he easily adapted to hand-held calculators because he had already read about the devices in Isaac Asimov's 1957 story "The Feeling of Power," which anticipated them by two decades.

Mr. Gibson takes the concept a step further. "I think this different sense of consciousness because of changes in technology has already happened," he says. "That's the odd thing. We are already something vastly different from the lines of what nature put together. We can kind of glimpse it in our children, watching a child in full Nintendo interface."

THE MODERN CYNIC

BY MICHAEL W. PERRY / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ



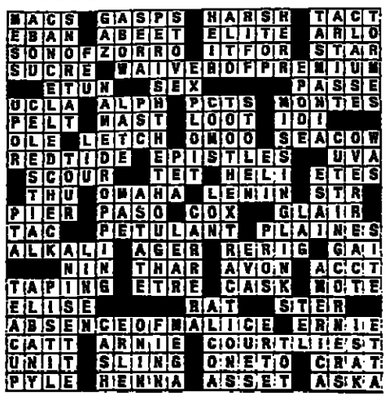
ACROSS

1 Waste
5 "Catch!"
9 Pure
15 Canine greeting
18 Stevenson character
19 Sharp
21 Corrida participant
22 Early August arrival
23 "Quanto è bella," e.g.
24 Weather forecast
25 Only Illinois-born President
26 Defile
27 Speaker of this puzzle's quip
30 Soothe
32 Knotted up
33 Petition
34 Wins over
35 Noted writer on poker
38 Foundation
39 Stage planning
40 Part 1 of the quip
45 Island transportation
49 Semiconductor giant
50 Actor's direction
51 Slick
52 Dodge
53 Rock and Roll Hall of Fame architect
54 Kind of movie
55 Remote button
56 "Eat!"
57 Tangle
59 Many a Michener novel
60 "Impression: Sunrise" and others
61 Part 2 of the quip
67 "Britannicus" playwright
68 Be bereft of
69 The Louvre's "Venus d'——"
70 Battery end
71 Reference
72 Betting game, informally
73 "Deep Space Nine" changeling
76 Kim Philby and others
77 Gossip
78 Stitch together
79 Rocky Mountain town
81 Sci-fi writer Anthony
82 Part 3 of the quip
85 Disheveled
87 Facilitate
88 Hobo's lodging
89 Younger son of a Spanish monarch
92 Christmas staple
93 Perspective
95 Reward
96 End of the quip
102 Street of film
103 1965 Yardbirds hit
105 Nicholas Gage book
106 Leading ——
107 Wolfed
108 On now
109 Australian sheep menace
110 Capacity
111 Club ——
112 Commercial papers
113 First place
114 Kind of dog

DOWN

1 Bygone ruler
2 Prop for Orpheus
3 Frigg's husband
4 Part of a "Twelve Days of Christmas" gift
5 Carriage horse
6 Psychologist Havelock ——
7 Pee Wee of Cooperstown
8 Christian and others
9 Threshold
10 "Waiting for the Robert ——"
11 Gertrude Lawrence film bio
12 Coat, in old slang
13 Like 1, 2, 3
14 1986 Pulitzer novel
15 Place of worship
16 Sphere
17 Return parts
20 Make scores of 60
28 Streisand film
29 Fully exposed
31 Comedy club on cable TV
34 Stand up to
35 Fragment
36 Movie prefix
37 Hostile to
38 Nancy, in a Sir William Gilbert song
39 —— Food Company
41 Pioneer bacteriologist J. R.
42 Deify
43 Treat with nuts
44 Pre-Jet New York footballer
46 Sound of Washington
47 "Dombey and Son" wife
48 Compact
54 Clearance
55 Mt. Katahdin's locale
57 Peter Parker's alias
58 Superfluous
59 Blister
60 Adjective in cigarette ads
61 "My Three Sons" dog
62 Former enemy capital
63 Molière's "L'—— des femmes"
64 First two words of "Dixie"
65 "Fie, thou dishonest ——!": "Twelfth Night"
66 Complainer
71 Slicker's home
72 Acorn, e.g.
73 Outdoors
74 Small progress
75 "I'm —— you!"
77 Two pills, e.g.
78 Roasted
79 Bowl
80 Sows
83 S. C. Johnson brand
84 Rapture
86 Perplex
89 Girder
90 "Extreme Prejudice" actor
91 Got angry
92 Large canines
93 Outlay
94 Knife wielder's move
96 Contemporary novelist Martin
97 Curse
98 Writer Wiesel
99 —— worship
100 Check out, so to speak
101 Desideratum
104 Coach Parseghian

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



The New York Times

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The Chaos Scenario

As campaign weeks go, Bob Dole's was almost as bad as they get. His sepulchral response to the State of the Union speech led his rivals for the Republican Presidential nomination to club him openly as a candidate who cannot defeat President Clinton. Having kept his well-known temper in check throughout the campaign, Mr. Dole then reverted to form, pugnaciously lashing out against liberal elitists in the media and rich-boy Republicans. The inescapable message for Republican voters was that their once golden opportunity to win back the White House was in danger of falling apart.

Republicans are now talking openly of Mr. Dole as this year's Walter Mondale, a man destined to lose because of the perception that he is beholden to special interests and a creature of the past. The analogy takes on urgency when you remember how quickly voters can turn on a front-runner who gets nicked. Even in Iowa, where Mr. Dole has vast organizational strength and regional appeal, Steve Forbes is closing in. New Hampshire voters could make serious mischief by knocking Mr. Dole out of first place.

If that happens, the Republicans are left with a shambles. Mr. Forbes bears the burden of his deeply flawed proposal for a flat tax and an even shakier résumé. Neither is likely to survive close scrutiny. In fact, the most salient Presidential feature possessed by Mr. Forbes is his Presidential-scale advertising budget. Rivals either chide him or stand in awe of the $15 million he has spent on his campaign. Mr. Dole said it was "like saying, 'I like America so much, I bought the country.'" But even Mr. Forbes's Warbucks appeal is dampened by the fact that he has now let us know that, win or lose, he expects to be paid back.

As for the flat tax, it does not take focus groups and opinion polls to figure out that voters are not rising up this year to demand that rich people be given huge new tax breaks. When the progressive income tax was enacted in 1913, its author, Cordell Hull, a Tennessee Congressman who later became Franklin Roosevelt's Secretary of State, captured the spirit of the times by vowing to stop "exempting the Carnegies, the Vanderbilts, the Morgans and the Rockefellers with their aggregated billions of hoarded wealth." That was a pretty good line then, and it will rise again when Americans discover that Mr. Forbes would be paying drastically reduced taxes on income from his own $400 million hoard.

According to some accounts from the campaign trail, Mr. Forbes is often praised by people who think the flat tax will at last force the rich to pay more in taxes by getting rid of all their exemptions. In a general election, Mr. Clinton would relish explaining who gets flattened by the flat tax.

For a while, Mr. Forbes's success was counted as a favorable development for Mr. Dole, because the rivals who might have directed their fire at the front-runner were aiming elsewhere. But if Mr. Forbes wrecks the Dole campaign in the next few weeks, the G.O.P. will have to look into the shallows of its talent pool. Not since the Democrats' "seven dwarfs" of 1988 has either party produced such a lack of luster.

So what if a combination of a collapsing front-runner and a weak field stirs dreams of none-of-the-above among victory-hungry Republican voters? If the early primaries explode into chaos, those voters may soon begin exhorting one of the party's bench-sitters — Jack Kemp, Dick Cheney, James Baker, Newt Gingrich or even Colin Powell — to reconsider. Mr. Dole, in his painful speech last week, called on voters to "face the fact that we cannot give in to all of our own desires." He seemed to be saying that he understood the voters' yearnings, but that they should vote for Bob Dole anyway.

Kenya Tries to Stifle Its Press

Kenya has suffered the multiple plagues of one-party, one-man rule since President Daniel arap Moi assumed power in 1978. Corruption, cynicism and repression are staples of Kenyan life. Now, as he heads into what could be a contested election early next year, the President threatens to muzzle the Kenyan press and foreign journalists as well.

Under proposed legislation that Mr. Moi's party has ample votes to adopt, all journalists in Kenya would have to be licensed by a press council with the power to enforce a Government-mandated code of ethics. A second measure would create a commission empowered to revoke media licenses and seize broadcast equipment.

These laws would be devastating for Kenyan politics and a budding multi-party system. The proposed code would also extend to foreign correspondents, who often are able to report what Kenyan publications cannot.

President Moi favors flattering news, like the obsequious televised accounts of his daily activities. He is particularly anxious now because he faces a serious challenge from the opposition Safina party.

In 1992, bowing to pressure from foreign aid donors, including the Bush Administration, Kenya agreed to conduct its first multi-party elections. Safina emerged as a serious contender, its standing enhanced by a prominent founder, the eminent conservationist and paleontologist Richard Leakey. There was speculation that Mr. Leakey might actually win a free election. Soon there was a wave of harassment of dissenting political figures and journalists, as goons broke up Safina rallies and Mr. Leakey was beaten up.

Past pressure from aid donors has yielded salutary results. Renewed pressure would show friends of press freedom in Kenya that their cause is neither forgotten nor lost.

Underground Gallery-Going

The biggest art gallery in New York is one that thousands of people pass through every day. Some of them may know one small corner of it, but there can be very few, if any, who have seen the whole. Doing so, after all, takes a stack of tokens, a lot of waiting on platforms and frequent recourse to a map. But anyone who takes the journey can say, as did the first person to stick his head into King Tut's tomb, that he has seen "wonderful things."

"Wonderful things" are not all this gallery has to do with Tut's tomb. Like the latter, it is underground — being concentrated, for the most part, in New York's gargantuan subway system. One of its most exciting works, however, is above ground, at the entrance to the Bronx's Westchester Square stop. There, a brilliant blaze of faceted glass, is Romare Bearden's triptych of a city that seems to shimmer with as much life as it does color.

The Bearden is part of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority's Arts for Transit, a five-year capital campaign program. Sixty-one works are already in place and 50 more are now in progress — and to those who would say that dressing up a subway is like putting a ribbon on a pig's tail, the only proper response is "You're nuts."

At 34th Street and Avenue of the Americas, a stopping place for the N, R and F trains, curves a long wall of handmade golden tiles by Michele Oka Doner. High above the tracks, David Provan suspended red iron paddles that move lazily in the breeze created by the train's passing.

A block away at the present Penn Station Andrew Leicester, using terra cotta, has evoked remnants (and memories) of the fabled old Penn Station with broken columns and a recreation of the station's "Day and Night" sculptures. Overhead is a clock by Maya Lin: one disc sliding over another, like an eclipse.

Carnegie Hall Station has the names of some of its greatest performers simply inscribed on small white tiles, an idea from Josh Scharf. At the Christopher Street Station, schoolchildren have created four ceramic triptychs about Greenwich Village history. Soon almost all New Yorkers will know what it is to experience an art gallery, and be all the richer for it.

Young Achievers Help the Needy

They are young and ambitious. They are living in New York City and working for some of its most prominent financial institutions. They work 80- to 100-hour weeks. But a group of young financial analysts, mostly in their early 20's, take time every year to organize their own small campaign to help New Yorkers who are not as successful.

Maxwell Chee, who is 23 and a graduate of Queens University in Canada, is one of them. He is a second-year analyst with Salomon Brothers. This year he has put in 30 hours or so organizing his colleagues at Salomon Brothers and other firms to raise money for The New York Times Neediest Cases Fund.

For Mr. Chee it was a natural idea. He had done social service work in college. Now he is one of the senior members of a group of five young people who organize their colleagues to solicit the professionals they work with. The firms match employees' gifts up to $2,500.

Last week the group turned over a check for $87,730 to the fund. The gift helped the fund exceed total contributions for the same time last year. Another check will be delivered before the drive ends on Feb. 29.

But valuable as this contribution is, it does not diminish the value of smaller gifts, like the one from Lauren and Emily Redmerski of Rye, N.Y., who went without one night's Hanukkah gifts so they could give $40 to the fund, or from the Lamperts of Long Island, who are nearing retirement, have few savings and still find $5 to contribute. Anika Schwarzwald of Jersey City gave $11, "one for every year of my life."

Every gift is appreciated and put to use by the charities supported by the fund. All contributions go through seven private agencies to people in need. Nothing is kept for administration. Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.

Checks should be payable to The New York Times Neediest Cases Fund and mailed to P.O. Box 5193, General Post Office, New York, N.Y. 10087.

U.S. Worker Safety Net Isn't Too Much to Ask

To the Editor:

Re Thomas Geoghegan's "State of the Worker" (Op-Ed, Jan. 25): It's rare to see commentary pointing out that Western Europe's approach to social benefits for its work force is not a failure but prevents working people from becoming like so many Americans — the working poor.

Since the demise of Communism, American opinion makers have looked at Europe's welfare states as validation that the American system is superior, although statistics and reality suggest this is not true.

Universal access to health services, adequate time off from work and social security programs are "luxuries" we have denied ourselves in the name of global competitiveness, downsizing and a flexible work force. We are paying a high price for these policies. Our allies long ago recognized that adequate social policies are a priority, and they seem committed to preserving the fundamentals of their system.

I have little doubt there will be much difference in the way American policy makers go about their business as a result of Mr. Geoghegan's piece, but at least an alternative view made it into a major media outlet.

ANTHONY SKAGGS
New York, Jan. 25, 1996

●

To the Editor:

Thomas Geoghegan's criticism of President Clinton's message to workers in his State of the Union Message (Op-Ed, Jan. 25) reflects a labor agenda that has held the Democratic Party captive.

As a Democrat who served in Congress for 12 years, I have seen too many in my party abandon the center on labor-related issues.

Democrats need to say to our union supporters that we no longer can ignore the workplace realities that face the 85 percent of American workers who don't belong to a union, especially when union interests run counter to the economic realities of the 21st century.

While Mr. Geoghegan and other union advocates speak of restoring worker dignity, organized labor would continue to deny nonunion workers the right to participate with management in decision-making.

The National Labor Relations Act makes employee involvement through decision-making with management illegal for nonunion workers. Corrective legislation has been introduced but faces a challenge in the Senate, where organized labor is urging a Democratic filibuster.

Democrats, while right to insist on a strong government role in assuring safeguards for workers, also need to recognize that the best labor policy is a strong economy. Democrats should be the party of the 21st century, embracing global markets, fiscal restraint and empowered employees. President Clinton had it right when he said: "When companies and workers work as a team, they do better. And so does America."

TIM PENNY
Waseca, Minn., Jan. 25, 1996

●

To the Editor:

American workers are in critical need of the union movement aggressively to check the rapid erosion of gains made over the years by the blood, sweat and tears of our parents. Efforts so far have been ineffective. The perception is that the contributions that employee and employer make to lucrative union welfare and pension funds are the primary concern of the unions.

Corporate downsizing is often followed by a rise in the price of company stock and bonuses for top managers. Human misery seems to generate huge profits. How many union pension funds are invested in the same companies that orchestrate these disasters?

ROBERT TAYLOR
New York, Jan. 26, 1996

What Childless Women Are Missing

To the Editor:

Jeanne Safer (Op-Ed, Jan. 17) defends her choice not to have children and says she is happy with her decision. Though I am also a 50-year-old woman, I made the "choice" at a young age to become an Orthodox Jew, and 30 years later I am the mother of 14. I am the grandmother (so far) of 17 grandchildren. Calculating conservatively, I may have 100 grandchildren, become great-grandmother to 1,000 and live to embrace some great-great-grandchildren. In my community, I am not an exception but the norm.

I showed Ms. Safer's article to the women in my neighborhood. Upon reading the quote from the news correspondent who remarked, "Would I have been able to go into Afghanistan with the rebels if I'd had a child waiting at home?", we fell on the floor laughing. Only a woman who has never experienced the inner happiness of having her own children could make such a statement.

What a professional woman may accomplish cannot compare to what a mother does in one day in the life of her child.



Luba Lukova

Ms. Safer says that she and the women like her are "models for the next generation." What next generation? They did not have children.

I am a model for the next generation. Because of me there will be 1,000 great-grandchildren who were created, influenced, nurtured and loved by me.

NAOMI GOLDBERG
New York, Jan. 22, 1996

Defense Boondoggle Or the Public Good?

To the Editor:

Re Anthony Lewis's "Defense Anomaly" (column, Jan. 22):

The waste in the budget is far worse than Mr. Lewis states.

Congress insists on appropriating many billions of dollars more than even the Defense Department requests. Furthermore, the new planes, ships and submarines will have to be manned, maintained, fueled and repaired, adding additional billions to future budgets.

Two forces are at work here, the fear of large job layoffs from defense employers, and the political capital earned by members of Congress in their local constituencies by protecting these jobs.

Consider the following in lieu of this giant make-work boondoggle:

Let's say it took 1,000 workers at the local defense plant three years to build just one unnecessary $2.2 billion B-2 bomber. The taxpayers could afford to pay those workers full salary for three years.

During those three years, or until they found other employment, they would be engaged in either full-time training for other, more-in-demand work, or work on some local public project that would benefit the local community.

The mathematics are elementary: 3,000 worker years at $60,000 a year ($40,000 salary plus $20,000 cost of training) equals $180 million.

Net saving to the taxpayers for each unbuilt bomber would be $2 billion.

STUART K. SHERMAN
Englewood, N.J., Jan. 25, 1996

Japan Preschoolers Don't Play to Win

To the Editor:

Re "In Japan, Even Toddlers Feel the Pressure to Excel" (news article, Jan. 23): You give no source for a "major survey" suggesting that half of Japanese preschoolers have attended tutoring.

At the local public schools serving 99 percent of Japan's children, few to none of the first-graders attended exam-preparatory classes during preschool years. Elite elementary schools, such as those your article features, serve less than 1 percent of Japanese elementary students.

Why ignore the mainstream educational experience in Japan? Compared with American counterparts, Japanese 5-year-olds spend four times as much of their school day in free play. American 5-year-olds spend 30 percent of the school day in direct academic instruction, whereas Japanese students spend only 5 percent in such instruction.

Let's not reinforce stereotypes about Japan just to strengthen the American notion that academic achievement can occur only at the expense of children's social development. Friendship, play and social promotion are more emphasized in Japanese schools than in ours.

CATHERINE C. LEWIS
Oakland, Calif., Jan. 25, 1996
The writer is a researcher on the Japanese educational system at the Developmental Studies Center.

Whitewater Posturing

To the Editor:

Re "Extend the Whitewater Committee" (editorial, Jan. 25):

You seem to forget there is a more extensive inquiry by the special prosecutor Kenneth Starr at public expense.

Senator Alfonse M. D'Amato, in his desire to defame Hillary Rodham Clinton, plays the prosecutor, not the investigator, and thus contradicts his contention that he is only in search of the facts.

As for the copies of the billing records that turned up, they confirm Mrs. Clinton's statements that she did minimal work for Madison Guaranty and contain no motive for concealment.

ROBERT PHILIPSON
Ardsley on Hudson, N.Y., Jan. 25, 1996

No Muslim Outrage

To the Editor:

Your Jan. 23 letters headlined "Don't Depict Islam, the Religion, as a Menace" beg the question by assuming that there is a moderate or even tolerant wing of Islam.

When various outrages have been committed in Islam's name, what prominent Muslim spokesmen have publicly and unequivocally condemned these actions?

What efforts at rapprochement with victims of Islamic intolerance are we seeing from any Islamic authority?

Yes, there are Muslims who don't engage in terrorism, but precious few who actively fight against it within their ranks.

DANIEL LILIE
Wilmette, Ill., Jan. 25, 1996

Charities, Under Siege Too, Can't Undergo Market Conversion

To the Editor:

We have been reading commentary in this column on the idea of charities operating according to marketplace principles (letters, Jan. 19 and 24), in which a debate line has been drawn demarking two camps: charities cannot fill the Federal budget gap; charities can fill the budget gap.

It's the wrong question to debate. Over the past decade the biggest growth area in nonprofit financing has been fees and charges, not voluntary contributions and not government financing.

Voluntary contributions are one slice of the nonprofit financing pie. Charities are being asked to transform the 17 percent of their financing that comes from voluntary contributions to a much larger serving of pie. At the same time they are being asked to transform themselves from innovators to a crisis-driven triage system that provides services to a growing and desperate population base.

If that were not enough, they are being regulated and taxed at unthinkable levels as they are held up to one audience as saviors of our most needy and to another as crooked swindlers in need of costly bureaucratic shackles.

Charities can raise more than they're raising now, but it is hard to accomplish modest fund-raising goals when you're under siege. Realistic appraisals of the possible must precede ambitious leaps into the future.

ANN E. KAPLAN
Editor, Giving USA
New York, Jan. 22, 1996

An Owlish Irruption

To the Editor:

Re "Central Park Is a Festival of Odd Birds" (news article, Jan. 25): The "eruption" of owls you describe makes it appear as if owls are shooting out of the park like lava out of Vesuvius. The right word for the phenomenon — a mass movement of large numbers of birds into areas beyond their normal range — is "irruption."

MARIE WINN
New York, Jan. 25, 1996

Carter Burden's Legacy

To the Editor:

Re "Carter Burden, Progressive Patrician, 54, Dies" (obituary, Jan. 24):

In recalling Mr. Burden's life, you omit his most significant accomplishment as a New York City Councilman: he drafted, introduced and was the principal advocate for the amendments to the city's Landmarks Preservation Law upheld by the Supreme Court in sustaining landmark designation for Grand Central Terminal.

All who still marvel at the beauty of that structure should remember the love of our city and its rich architectural heritage that inspired Mr. Burden's work on that legislation.

FRANK R. FIORAMONTI
New York, Jan. 25, 1996
The writer served as Mr. Burden's legislative counsel from 1971 to 1975.

The Times welcomes letters from readers. Letters must include writer's name, address and telephone number. We regret that we cannot acknowledge unpublished letters. Those selected may be shortened for space reasons. Fax letters to (212) 556-3622 or send to Letters to the Editor, The New York Times, 229 West 43d Street, New York, N.Y. 10036.

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Foreign Affairs
THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN

Come To Africa

KIGALI, Rwanda

While on a stopover in Rwanda, the American U.N. representative, Madeleine Albright, asked her staff and the crew of their Air Force jet to pose for a picture on the runway of Kigali international airport. They all stood on the steps of their Boeing 737, which was emblazoned with the words "United States of America." There was a Greek-American, a Czech-American, Jewish Americans, black Americans and white Americans, there were Air Force crewmen from small towns and State Department experts from Ivy League colleges, and they were all standing there shoulder to shoulder. As they posed for the camera, I watched the Rwandan ground crew watching them. They had a slightly quizzical look. I couldn't help but wonder what the Rwandans made of this scene.

That picture represented everything that is good about America: the spirit of community, the melting pot, the willingness to help strangers in need and a concept of citizenship based on allegiance to an idea not a tribe. It is everything that a country like Rwanda is not.

I thought about that scene and I started to get mad — mad about the budget debate in America today. We have something so special compared with almost every country in the world, but if we want to preserve it, we have to pay for it. I don't know exactly where the budget compromises should come. And there is certainly truth to the argument that to preserve our social safety nets, they have to be reformed and probably reduced in scope. But I do know this: When I listen to many of these freshmen Republicans I hear mean-spirited voices, uninterested in any compromise. I hear cold, Jacobin voices, who denounce government, who really want to let the market rule and who really want to scrap as much welfare, gun control, Medicare, Medicaid and taxes as they can.

Well, Africa today is a freshman Republican's paradise.

Nobody in Liberia pays taxes, there is no gun control in Angola, there is no minimum wage in Burundi and there is no welfare as we know it in Rwanda — but a lot of their people sure wish there were. Like the desk clerk in Luanda, who looked at me as if I was

Lessons for our freshmen Republicans.

out of my mind when I asked her if it was safe to take a walk three blocks from the hotel, down the main street of the Angolan capital in the middle of the day. No, no, no, she shook her head — not safe. I'll bet she wouldn't mind paying some taxes for more police.

And then there was the Liberian journalist who approached me in Monrovia and demanded to know why the U.S. Marines came to Liberia after the civil war broke out in 1989, evacuated the U.S. citizens and then just left the Liberians to fight it out alone. "We all thought, the Marines are coming, we will be saved," he said, "but then they left. How could they leave?" Poor fellow, his country has no marines to come rescue him. I'll bet he wouldn't mind paying some taxes for a few marines.

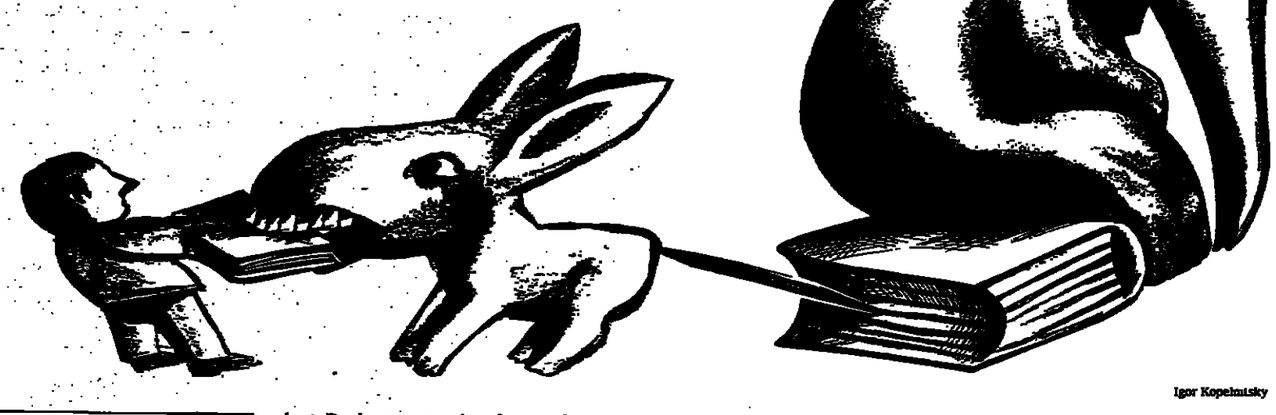
They don't worry about "Big Government" in Liberia. They don't worry about government at all — thanks to the gangs and warlords who rule most of the land. No, Liberians may never again have to worry about government regulations or red tape. In fact the only regulation I saw at the Executive Mansion there was a sign on a bullet-shattered window at the front door. It said: "Deposit Your *Weapons Here.*"

Employers don't have to fret at all about pesky worker-safety rules in Angola, let alone services for the handicapped. The 70,000 Angolans who have had limbs blown off by land mines planted during the last 25 years of civil war seem to make do just fine on their own. You see them limping around the streets of Luanda, hustling for food and using tree limbs as a substitute for the human variety. They sure looked happy to me.

And in Rwanda and Burundi, no one is asked to pay for Head Start, unemployment insurance, Medicaid, national service or student loan programs. Instead they just have a brutal competition for scarce land, energy and water, in which Tutsi and Hutu take turns downsizing the other tribe in order to grab more resources for their own.

They say the freshmen Republicans almost never go on Congressional junkets. Too bad. They might want to come to Africa and glimpse what happens to countries where there is no sense of community, no sense that people owe their government anything, no sense that anyone is responsible for anyone else and where everyone, rich or poor, is left to the tender mercies of the global marketplace. □

Missing Records, The Prequel



Igor Kopelmitsky

By Beth Nolan and John Podesta

WASHINGTON

An independent counsel is investigating a number of Administration officials, including the President himself. The counsel requests documents from the White House. Many are turned over, with the exception of one. The counsel issues a second request for papers, but this document is still not provided.

Then, one day a White House staff assistant responsible for keeping the President's family records discovers

Remember George Bush's mislaid diary?

the document. She immediately recognizes that the independent counsel has requested it.

Sound familiar?

It should. But this is not only because of the controversy surrounding Hillary Rodham Clinton and the billing records of the Rose Law Firm. The document in question was George Bush's diary, long sought by Lawrence E. Walsh, the independent counsel investigating the Iran-contra scandal in the Reagan Administration.

Mr. Walsh first requested all relevant White House documents, including the diaries of officials, in 1987, when Mr. Bush was Vice President. A second request was made in the summer of 1992, when then President Bush was running for re-election.

Beth Nolan, a professor at George Washington University Law School, was associate counsel to President Clinton from 1993 to 1995. John Podesta, a visiting professor at Georgetown University Law Center, was Staff Secretary to President Clinton from 1993 to 1995.

That September, an Administration staff assistant, Patty Presock, found the Bush diary in the personal safe on the third floor of the White House's living quarters. But even then the document was not delivered, according to Mr. Walsh's Iran-contra report. Instead, Ms. Presock told President Bush of her discovery and said she believed it was relevant to the latest independent counsel request. Mr. Bush said he directed Ms. Presock to have the Presidential counsel, C. Boyden Gray, "sort it out."

She gave the diary to Mr. Gray, who looked at it that day, according to Mr. Walsh's report. Then, for more than two months, nothing happened. Eventually, in December 1992, after President Bush had lost the election, Mr. Gray showed a few lawyers on his staff some excerpts. They readily concluded that the diary should be turned over to the independent counsel.

On Dec. 11, 1992, almost six years after the original request, Mr. Gray notified the independent counsel that a diary had been found. Entries from it were not produced until late December. In his final report, Mr. Walsh seems to imply that President Bush knew the diary was relevant in 1987, at the time of the first request, but that he intentionally did not produce it.

We do not recall any clamor or outrage over these findings from those members of Congress who are now so critical of the Clinton White House. We do not recall Senator Alfonse D'Amato rushing to have hearings about this delay, even though Congress had held its own extensive hearings on Iran-contra and made its own request for documents.

Mr. Walsh sought to investigate the long delay in producing the diary. But Mr. Gray and the former deputy counsel refused to be interviewed. They and their private counsel would not do so without guaranteed protection of lawyer-client privilege and Fifth Amendment protection from self-incrimination. President Bush also refused to be interviewed without limits that the independent counsel found unacceptable.

Maybe there were sound reasons for the delay in handing over the diary. Maybe the privileges the lawyers insisted on deserved protection. But we'll never know exactly what happened — unless the Senate authorizes a select committee to investigate the Bush diary. Since these investigations are clearly influenced by partisanship and a desire for political gain, we won't hold our breath.

But before slinging charges against President and Mrs. Clinton for being uncooperative, some of *their most vocal critics might review* recent history.

Compare the actions of the Bush Administration to those of the Clinton Administration. Earlier this month, when Carolyn Huber, an aide in the Clinton White House, found the billing records from the Rose Law Firm, she immediately called the Clintons' personal lawyer, and he arranged to have the records turned over within a day. And the Clintons have made it clear that they will help answer any questions about the law firm's billings. Indeed, even before Mrs. Clinton was subpoenaed, she had already answered questions three times from the independent counsel investigating Whitewater.

Those who are so quick to criticize the way the Clinton White House has handled matters might, with some much needed perspective, own up to the disingenuous quality of some of their charges. □

Docudrama

By Sidney N. Herman

CHICAGO

Documents that are relevant to an investigation are found in an unexpected place six months after they were first sought. A shocking development?

Absolutely not. In most major pieces of litigation, files turn up late. One side or the other always thinks of making something of the late appearance, but these lawyers know the truth: it could just as easily happen to them.

Despite diligent searches, important papers in large organizations are always turning up after the initial and follow-up searches. How many times have you looked for something on your desk and couldn't find it, only to have it appear right under your nose later? Happens all the time.

Indeed, as every litigator knows, there is nothing worse than having an important document show up late. You've only highlighted its absence for your opponent. If you know where it is, it is far better to include it in the initial delivery of relevant papers, where it gets mixed in with the rest of the morass. Why red-flag it by holding it back?

Sidney N. Herman is a lawyer.

My former partner, Kenneth Starr, knows all this. As independent counsel in the Whitewater investigation, he will take it into account.

But the American people have no reason to know that this is a normal

Please. Every lawyer loses files.

occurrence; it is not part of their everyday experience. Reporters really don't have any reason to know this either. Or they may know, and simply choose to ignore it.

Last summer, notes that were critical to the celebrated libel suit brought by Jeffrey Masson against the writer Janet Malcolm appeared in her private study, years after they were first sought. I recall that discovery being treated as an interesting happenstance, nothing more.

When documents show up belatedly, even in private quarters, there is simply nothing unusual about it. □

The Master's Hand

By Barbara Grizzuti Harrison

It isn't exactly tantamount to finding a shy unicorn in your garden amidst apples of gold, but it will, as the French say, serve. It will do — and it will do exquisitely.

It is most lovable, adorable, electrically surprising — numinous. And its discovery gives rise to all kinds of contingent hopes and fantasies (the

Manhattan, touched by Michelangelo.

nature of hope being, like that of love, to multiply and expand). Who would have expected it? And yet there it (almost indisputably) is: a languorous marble statue of a young boy, hitherto disregarded, and now acclaimed as an early work of Michelangelo.

Normally sober and professionally prudent curators and art historians were as euphoric as scholars are likely to become, and no one has come forth to challenge them. This immensely endearing work of art, though it dwells in an inoperative fountain, is no decorative folly — it's the real thing.

And since 1902 or thereabouts, it has been at 972 Fifth Avenue, now *the home* to the cultural services of the French Embassy.

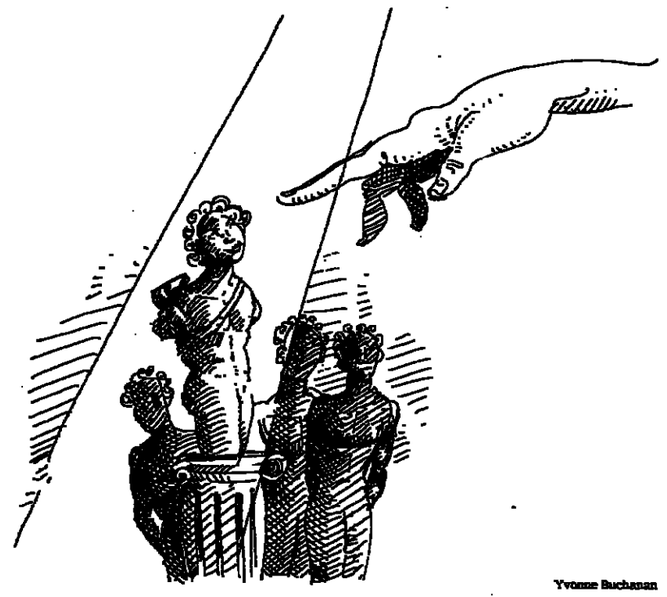
Why haven't we known about New York's only Michelangelo until now? Well, a small statue standing in the shadows isn't as brazen as, say, King Tut's treasure. It doesn't trumpet itself with the unmistakable gleam of gold. It needs a knowing and a loving eye, a seeing eye amidst the jaded, cautious eyes of pragmatists.

It was left to the eye of Dr. Kathleen Weil-Garris Brandt to give us occasion for rejoicing. (It's almost like a resurrection, isn't it? I mean: There it wasn't, and there it is. There it always was.) In October, Dr. Brandt, who teaches at New York University's Institute of Fine Arts, went to an exhibition of decorative arts at 972 Fifth; the room was flooded with light; the fountain and the work stood revealed. Her scrupulous research overwhelmed her skepticism and confirmed what her eye already knew: Michelangelo.

On a cold and blue and blustery day, I went to see the youth. The French, losing no time, have floodlit him. He is surrounded now by red velvet ropes. (No armed guards ... no one but a blasé security man who asked me what to say when he was asked how he felt about the discovery. Say you're thrilled, I said; he wrote that down.)

I was reminded of a movie in which Peter O'Toole and Audrey Hepburn circumvent security alarms and steal a pretty little statue from the Louvre by means of a boomerang. Or maybe it was a Frisbee. (Don't ask.) I was feeling as I can't help but feel when I'm in the presence of visually accessible and touchable goodies: acquisitive.

That's why I thought about the boomerang ... or the Frisbee. Of course, unless the French arrange to send the *statue to France, I do have it. We all* do. It stands in a large circular basin of a fountain (wonderful people, the rich, always bringing the indoors out and the outdoors in). The rim of the fountain is exactly the right height for resting one's foot. I wondered how many fancy shoes had been placed



Yvonne Buchanan

near the statue over the years, and how many cocktail glasses had been placed casually on the ancient Roman altar on which it rests. Perhaps the half-smile on the young boy's face says: I exist to be of use.

Every bit of him is delicious: the curve of his torso, the honey spot where the neck meets the shoulder, the whorled ear and the abundance of ringlets, the perfect lift of the buttocks, even the empty eyes, which seem, the longer you look at them, not to be empty at all but to be full of mysteries, eyes that demand a response. From every angle he elicits awe and joy.

Four people walked in from the street while I was there. They wore anticipatory smiles. There are people who will say: much ado, so much fuss, what's the differehce, it's only because it has been given an imprimatur that people are tripping all over themselves in delight. To which I say: horsefeathers.

In Florence, there are three statues of Michelangelo's David, one on a promontory away from the center of the city, one in the Piazza della Signoria, across from the cafe Rivoire. The third David is in the Accademia.

Two of the three are fakes, reproductions — on the theory, one supposes, that there can't be too much of a good thing. You may think tourists are suckers when they suffer the embarrassment that follows worshipfully contemplating a fake David. I do not. They have been profoundly cheated, and they sense it.

The fakes may look the same, but they are not the same. They have not been touched by the hand of the maker. The hand of the maker, in its act of creation, is an image, pale but the best we've got, of the hand of God.

The Michelangelo of Fifth Avenue, its paw-footed quiver damaged, its arrows lost to the ravages of time, its legsandarmsbroken,reveals,forallits flaws, the hand of the maker. When we stand next to it, we stand in a little circle of immortality, for the moment fearless. It lives. □

Liberties
MAUREEN DOWD

School Uniform Blues

WASHINGTON

Certain shades of blue still make me shudder.

But, despite spending 12 years in clip-on ties, pleats and Peter Pan collars, I have no hard feelings against school uniforms.

Through grade school and high school, forest green and slate blue uniforms made life simple. It was even possible, with the element of style removed, to wake up at 8 A.M. and catch the 8:05 bus. My saddle shoes made me a better, more timid person. They filled me with Virtue, but left me woefully unprepared to Express Myself when I got to college.

While uniforms made us *look* the same, they did not make us *be* the same. Underneath our identical covers were different hearts, different minds, different temperaments. In a weird way, in fact, our uniforms brought home the lesson that appearances matter. What made us different from each other came to matter more than what made us the same. Some girls had long legs and straight hair and boyfriends and doctor-dads with beach houses and some did not.

My nephew Patrick, who wears khakis, a blue shirt and blue-and-gold tie to his Catholic grade school, sagely observes that uniforms can only

Clothes don't make the kid.

obscure the inevitable superficial judgments for so long. "I like wearing different clothes," the 13-year-old says, "because it's easier to tell which kids are nerds and which aren't."

Nonetheless, politicians now believe the good nuns were on to something. Last summer, Mayor Rudolph Giuliani suggested that the New York public school system remodel itself on the Catholic school system. Last week, the President chimed in with a similar thought in his State of the Union address.

"If it means that teen-agers will stop killing each other over designer jackets, then our public schools should be able to require the students to wear school uniforms," the President said to an appreciative audience, all looking alike in the Washington uniform.

Bill Bennett, the Education Secretary under Ronald Reagan, called the endorsement "a zinger." "With one strike, Clinton became a cultural conservative. There are parents and kids fighting all over America every morning about what kids are wearing."

In a Maryland suburb last month, a straight-arrow 17-year-old student named Charles Lewis Marsh Jr. was hit by a stray bullet as he waited for a bus, when two kids tried to rob a student of what police called "an Eddie Bauer-type" jacket.

The President was impressed when the Long Beach, Calif., school district reported that a new dress code in elementary and middle schools had caused a dramatic drop in fighting, crime and ridicule.

As the comedian Bill Maher points out, "Nobody ever got mugged for a clip-on bow tie." (Yet.)

There is no doubt that appearances affect reality. Uniforms create uniformity. That is the good news and the bad news. They are really an exercise in group psychology. They teach the individual to belong and to behave like the others who belong. That is preferable to anarchy, but it is not the same thing as discipline.

Anyway, anarchy doesn't care what it wears. When I was growing up, the sartorial similarities between good girls and bad girls did not erase the behavioral differences.

Robert Coles, the Harvard child psychiatrist and social critic, says that troubled kids need a lot more than uniforms. "They need good teachers, they probably need a good solid home life and they don't have it. But it is fair to say that for some kids in need of structure and control, the uniform is not to be dismissed. I've seen it work with really troubled kids."

In some fancy private schools that have dropped dress codes, he said, he has seen "an erosion, in the drug culture and other areas, of order and authority."

"In all candor," he said, "when the uniform is a symbolic expression of caring and discipline and moral authority, when it expresses an institutional will for adherence to certain values such as hard work, community spirit and self-control, that's fine and valuable."

Even in a starched white shirt and a clip-on tie, you can still dress to kill. But if a dress code could lower the crime rate in public schools even a little, I'm for it.

Besides, why should adults be the only ones wearing uniforms? The sooner kids learn that grown-up life is made up of herds, the better. □

ECONOMY

Fran Tarkenton: From Quarterback to Power Player

By JON NORDHEIMER

ATLANTA

ANOTHER speech, another $15,000 in the bank, and Fran Tarkenton was ready to head for the hills.

Behind the wheel of his Jeep Grand Cherokee, with the hiss of tires on the blacktop, he visibly relaxed with each passing mile as he climbed into the stubby hills and tree-covered ridges of northeast Georgia.

"I come up here every chance I can to get away from the world," said the man who until recently held the most prized passing records in National Football League history. "Up in these mountains I feel people accept me for what I am rather than who I am."

What Francis Asbury Tarkenton is these days — and has been since his retirement in 1978 from the Minnesota Vikings, where he started and ended an 18-year Hall of Fame career — is a rarity among retired professional athletes: an experienced business man who has created, sold, traded and folded a wide variety of companies.

He is perhaps best known today a- a television pitchman for products like exercise equipment and motiva tional tapes. Like Terry Bradshaw, Pat Riley and a few other sports celebrities, he gives speeches on the corporate sales meeting circuit. He now collects $15,000 plus expenses for each speech, and gives more than 60 a year. But unlike others, he draws inspiration from his background as a businessman as well as a sports figure.

For most former players, the journey from the stadium to the world of commerce means opening a steakhouse or peddling a brand-name product, but Mr. Tarkenton has used his entrepreneurial skills and high-energy personality to translate ideas into capital ventures. His 18 years of "retirement" have at times been as frenetic as his 18 years on the field. He developed the role of scrambler into an art form, a quarterback who ran out of the protective pocket of his linemen a step ahead of grasping tacklers, crisscrossing the field on broken plays that often turned into long gains for his team.

By his own count, he has started nine businesses, some little more than passing fancies and a few climbing into the higher echelons of the corporate world.

"He was always thinking ahead on every play," said Mick Tingelhoff, a former Vikings center. "He was very intense, very competitive, and there was never any doubt he would become a first-class businessman."

It has not been all smooth sailing, though, for the personable Mr. Tarkenton, whose smooth features at age 55 give the impression that he is at least 10 years younger, a tribute to fast thinking and quick feet that kept him relatively unscarred in a bone-crushing game.

This Super Bowl weekend, like the previous 18, brings a painful reminder that he led the Vikings to three Super Bowl appearances in the 1970's and always came away on the short end. In addition, his N.F.L. records — for most touchdown passes, attempts, completions and passing yardage — were eclipsed one by one last year within a few weeks by Dan Marino of the Miami Dolphins.

In recent years, Mr. Tarkenton became the target of multimillion-dollar shareholder suits that contended that he manipulated the earnings of his Atlanta-based software company, Knowledgeware Inc., to attract investors, including a one-time friend in Minneapolis, the financier Irwin L. Jacobs. Mr. Tarkenton has since sold Knowledgeware to Sterling Software of Dallas, a move that he said cushioned the blow for shareholders who held onto their stock and rode last year's boom in the technology sector. All three class-action suits have been settled, he said.

He shrugs off these setbacks as the price of being in the arena, whether it is a playing field or a board room.

"I like making money, no doubt about that — it's the adult scoreboard," he said as he looked out at the unfolding landscape of weathered houses and country churches.

In his view, his business strengths centered on coming up with ideas, planning, forming companies and networking. "I hire good managers and give them responsibility for day-to-day operations," he explained.

Others see the skills that made Mr. Tarkenton a superb field general and television pitchman as covering up weaknesses.

"Personal dynamism and never admitting failure may be a strength on the football field, but it can be a liability in business," said Jeffrey Sonnenfeld, a professor at the Emory University School of Business in Atlanta. "I would never trust anyone who doesn't admit to setbacks in life, and he has never admitted that he cost a lot of investors a lot of money."

Mr. Tarkenton refuses to quantify his personal wealth. In 1991, when Knowledgeware was a high-flying software stock that topped $40 before a precipitous fall, Mr. Tarkenton, as founder and chief salesman, controlled a paper fortune of more than a million shares, but that melted away to a tidy but much smaller sum by the time he sold the company 15 months ago.

He is now deeply involved in nascent ventures aimed at small-business people. "There is tremendous opportunity to give the small businessman working at home an opportunity to leverage his position," he said as he braked the Jeep to a halt near his six-bedroom summer home on Lake Burton, 100 miles northeast of Atlanta. "The trick is to get their confidence that these products are not a scam."

As if to demonstrate his zeal, Mr. Tarkenton walked into a small restaurant operated by Ruth Brooks and spent the next 45 minutes instructing the 58-year-old woman on on how to make maximum profits from the expected spillover of visitors to the Olympic Games in Atlanta this summer.

"We've got to get something going this summer to make money," he tells Mrs. Brooks as he sits down for a lunch of fried pork chop, mashed potatoes and fried okra. He suggests that she place concession stands on the corner outside the restaurant and general store she owns to sell items like boiled peanuts and candy to passing tourists. Far from the modulated tones of Atlanta board rooms, his voice slips into the inflections of his Southern youth and the words come out "bald peanuts."

"I like making money better than spending it," Mrs. Brooks says with a laugh. She allows that she has been to Atlanta only once in her life, has never flown on an airplane and has never seen the ocean "except on TV, so I know what it looks like."

Her son, Gil, seated at another table, grumbles that his outboard-motor repair business is so seasonal that he is idle most of the winter months.

Mr. Tarkenton, dressed in a dark blue cable-knit sweater and jeans, says the young man should consider expanding his operations to include pontoon boat and personal watercraft rentals and repairs. "See, you've got to leverage your assets and leverage your location," he says. Before he departs he writes down his "800" number and tells Mr. Brooks to call him and he will help him contact regional representatives for watercraft like Jet Ski and Sea-Doo.

A few minutes later he is in the home of Charles and Susanne Poole, old friends who run a lakeside marina. They are sitting beside a wood-burning stove. He says he will arrange for Coca-Cola to ship them a commodious new ice chest for displaying soft drinks in the marina office. Mr. Tarkenton has been a director of Coca-Cola Enterprises for years and says the company is searching for ways to present its products better in mom-and-pop operations like theirs.

When conversation turns to the Super Bowl, Mr. Poole, nearing 80, asks, "How come you never went into coaching, Fran?"

"I was a coach while I played quarterback, Mr. Charley," Mr. Tarkenton responds, adding that 18 years in the pros had made him as knowledgeable in the game as any coach he played for. "But I had done that. After my career in football was over I wanted to devote all my time to some businesses I already started."

"Oh, you would find coaching too confining," Mrs. Poole interjects warmly, echoing the sentiment of others that he couldn't have coached one team at a time — he'd have to run all them.

In football, Mr. Tarkenton always had to answer the question "What makes Franny scramble?" In business, the question has changed to "What makes Franny run?"

A few other players have successful careers on the level of chief operating officer. Roger Staubach, former quarterback of the Dallas Cowboys, runs a commercial real estate concern. Nick Buoniconti, former All-Pro linebacker with the Miami Dolphins, was president of the U.S. Tobacco company and now is vice chairman of Columbia Laboratories, a drug research company.

No one, however, seems to have matched Mr. Tarkenton's peripatetic plunge into ventures big and small. Forget about his speaking schedule — which could earn him close to $1 million a year — a side career he developed as early as high school when he earned pocket money talking to football booster clubs. And the television infomercials, in which he plays a wide-eyed gym rat or a regular-guy product pusher, pay handsomely but remain a sideline.

What makes him stand out is his nonstop enthusiasm to come out on top and, he says, help others in the process. Setbacks, he says confidently — whether losing three Super Bowls or losing a small fortune in business — only energize him for new opportunities.

Bud Grant, his former Vikings coach, recognized the trait early. "This fellow really fills out his life with something meaningful almost every moment," he remarked 20 years ago.

Perhaps the easy answer to his ambition and drive is the most obvious one — he was always a striver who made things look easy, who overcame humble beginnings and not overly impressive raw talent to prove himself over and over again.

He was the third son of a poor Pentecostal preacher whose ministries carried him from Richmond, where Mr. Tarkenton was born on Feb. 6, 1940, to Washington. When he was 11 the family moved to Athens, Ga., home of the University of Georgia.

He was a lanky all-state quarterback at Athens High School and dreamed of becoming a pro. But by his sophomore year at the University of Georgia he was the third-string quarterback, "behind two guys who could throw harder and longer."

By the end of the season, he held the No. 1 spot, scoring several upsets against favored teams, and in his junior year led Georgia to a victory in the Orange Bowl.

"God gave me the ability to move a team down the field in a way that quarterbacks who were more physically gifted could not," he said, pointing the Jeep down the mountain roads toward Atlanta. "But I always had to keep proving myself to the coaches. I became a real pest on the sidelines."

He expected to be picked in the first round of the 1961 N.F.L. draft. Instead, Minnesota, an expansion team, picked him in the third round. His salary was $12,500, with a $3,500 signing bonus.

"Going in the third round at a time when there were only 14 N.F.L. teams was a blow to my ego," he recalled. His first Vikings coach, the former quarterback Norm Van Brocklin, also didn't have much regard for his talents until Mr. Tarkenton, in his rookie year, led the team to a decisive victory over the heavily favored Chicago Bears.

In the off season, Mr. Tarkenton went to work as a salesman for a trucking company in Sioux Falls, S.D., for $600 a month. The next two years he was a salesman for a Minnesota printing company, and by 1965 he and his first wife, Angela, who were married in 1960, and the first of their three children set up house in Atlanta, where he worked for the advertising firm BBD&O and was a management trainee at Coca-Cola.

■

In 1967 he was traded to the New York Giants and in the off season went up against the merchandising powerhouse Joe Namath, the quarterback across town for the Jets. While Mr. Namath became an icon of the counterculture 1960's, Mr. Tarkenton was hobbled by a "preacher's boy" image. Mr. Namath did commercials with slinky blondes on his arm, while Mr. Tarkenton made spots for Hai Karate after shave and Johnson & Johnson baby shampoo.

By the time he was traded back to the Vikings in 1972, Mr. Tarkenton had formed Behavorial Systems Inc., a management-consulting company that used psychologists to train supervisors in the textile industry in an effort to reduce turnover and raise productivity. The company eventually had 80 behavorial psychologists and changed its name to Tarkenton & Company.

But that was only the beginning. Graced with country-boy charm and affability, and careful to cultivate connections with the rich and powerful through his sports-star cachet, Mr. Tarkenton used the twilight of his playing career to step almost seamlessly into a new world of opportunity while most football veterans were looking ahead to a leisurely retirement. He juggled his last playing years with running Tarkenton & Company and toiling as a sports reporter for NBC. After leaving football, he did a guest shot on "Saturday Night Live," shared the broadcast booth with Howard Cosell and Frank Gifford on ABC's "Monday Night Football," went through a divorce — he has been married twice since — and was co-host of a popular ABC weekly stunt show called "That's Incredible."

He also started a profitable business turning out advertising for airline ticket jackets, formed insurance, advertising and public relations firms, and still found time to write a book, "How to Motivate People," and lend his name to a ghost-written mystery, "Murder at the Super Bowl."

In 1980, he acquired rights to computer-aided software engineering technology from a Long Island company to build and encode data analysis systems, and by 1986, the year he ended his second marriage, he merged Tarkenton Software with a Michigan company he bought called Knowledgeware.

"People say to me, 'Oh, Fran, you're lucky — you're a big football star and you could start all those businesses,'" Mr. Tarkenton says in his motivational talks to groups like Valvoline sales reps and A & W root beer franchisers, pitching his voice high to mimic an adoring fan.

"I was fortunate in my football career, but I don't know how much that helped me build a software company," he says. "When I tried to raise capital I went to bankers and got zero. I funded the $3 million to get started out of my own pocket, and the most I ever earned in one year as a quarterback was $250,000." His reward came in 1989 when he took the company public at $12.50 a share, and sold $2 million of his own stake.

Knowledgeware set out to help small-business people get access to mainframe computers, and this helped propel the company to zooming sales by the end of the decade. I.B.M. paid $10.5 million for about 8.5 percent of the company's stock in its early years, and Mr. Tarkenton dared hope he was on the cusp of a limitless bonanza. But trouble lay ahead. Personal computers with networking capability swept in and stole the small-business market, a change that Knowledgeware was slow to recognize.

Mr. Tarkenton's personal holdings in Knowledgeware were worth more than $50 million on paper in 1991, and in 1991 and 1992 he sold stock worth more than $4 million. But the stock went into a tailspin in 1991 on disappointing sales. For the first time in his charmed life, Mr. Tarkenton was the pursuer and success was the elusive object.

Mr. Tarkenton, who had sided with a group that included Mr. Jacobs, an old friend from Minneapolis, in a failed attempt to win control of the Vikings in 1986, invested heavily in Knowledgeware in 1993 and 1994. The conversations between the men before Mr. Jacobs's investment became central in his subsequent lawsuit and his contention that Mr. Tarkenton had misled him about the company's sales.

Both are bound by the recent settlement of Mr. Jacobs's lawsuit, the aim of which was to recover $5.8 million in lost investments in Knowledgeware, not to discuss their differences publicly. But the financier expressed bitterness before the settlement.

"I'm not going to let that anger from him impact my life," Mr. Tarkenton reflected the day after the drive through north Georgia. "I've learned throughout my football and business career that after setbacks — and nothing could set you back more than losing three Super Bowls in front of the entire world — the best thing to do is refocus that negative energy into positive energy."

■

Knowledgeware was acquired by Sterling for about $73 million. Mr. Tarkenton's share came to just over $6 million in stock, in addition to a $300,000-a-year consulting fee and a seat on Sterling's board for five years. Sterling's stock has nearly doubled since buying Knowledgeware. So investors who bought Knowledgeware at the initial offering and held on have about $9 worth of Sterling stock for each $12.50 share they had bought back in 1989. Mr. Tarkenton, on the other hand, has enjoyed at least $6 million in cash from his old shares in Knowledgeware and still has another $11 million or so of Sterling stock.

Burned by the personal computer the last time around, Mr. Tarkenton now says he is forming a company that will help small-business people use the Internet, an opportunity he sees as only in its infancy.

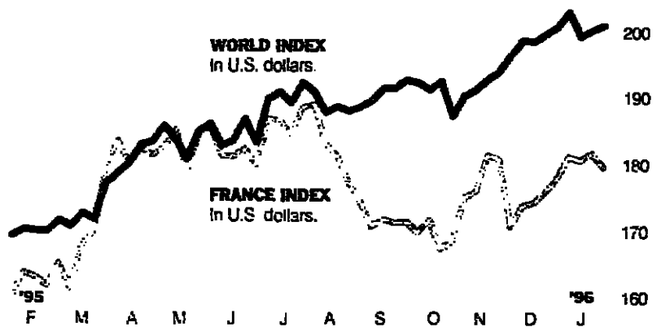
As for Super Bowl XXX, he will spend the day in typical Tarkenton fashion, getting paid to provide commentary on the game for Citgo executives meeting in Hawaii. Another day, another $15,000 in the bank.



Michael Schwarz for The New York Times

Fran Tarkenton hopes to teach people how to profit from the Internet.

WORLD STOCK MARKETS



Prepared by Goldman, Sachs & Co. using data derived from the Financial Times/Standard & Poor's Actuaries World Indices, a measure of stock market performance. The FT Indices are compiled jointly by The Financial Times Limited, Goldman, Sachs & Co. and Standard & Poor's, in conjunction with the Institute of Actuaries and Faculty of Actuaries.

PERFORMANCE	IN U.S. DOLLARS					IN LOCAL CURR.	
Country	Index	Week % Chg.	Week Rank	YTD % Chg.	YTD Rank	Dividend Yield	Index	YTD % Chg.
Australia	191.02	0.6	7	0.5	15	3.89	171.90	1.2
Austria	184.31	0.2	10	5.6	7	1.51	142.71	10.0
Belgium	208.09	–3.1	24	– 0 5	18	3 32	157 31	3.6
Brazil	155.50	–0.2	13	12 7	3	1.57	279.99	13.5
Britain	225.82	–0.8	16	– 2.0	20	4.17	222.74	1.2
Canada	152.87	1 1	5	3.0	10	2.45	152.91	4.3
Denmark	298.46	–0.1	12	3.4	9	1.40	234.02	7.5
Finland	175.80	–1.9	21	– 6.0	25	1.89	168.11	– 1.4
France	181.01	–1.1	18	0.9	13	3.13	145.39	5.6
Germany	168.32	0.3	9	2.8	11	1.83	130.49	7.1
Hong kong	431.84	3.5	1	11.4	4	3.34	428.66	11.4
Ireland	255.19	–1.1	17	– 0.1	17	3.32	230.70	2.7
Italy	74.66	–3.1	25	1.3	12	1.64	89.38	2.4
Japan	151.22	–0.6	14	– 2.4	21	0.75	101.97	0.9
Malaysia	511.42	–1.2	19	5.4	8	1.66	503.15	6.1
Mexico	1,203.04	0 5	8	16.1	1	1.42	9,766.37	11.9
Netherlands	272.57	–0.7	15	– 0 1	16	3.14	207.78	4.1
New Zealand	77.61	–0.0	11	– 2.6	23	4.70	61.87	– 4.4
Norway	225.67	–2.0	22	– 2.4	22	2.09	200.02	0.8
Singapore	443.93	3.3	2	9 0	6	1.39	289.88	9.2
South Africa	435.93	2.4	3	13.1	2	3.38	348.35	13.5
Spain	162.82	–1.8	20	– 1.4	19	3.92	156.01	2.8
Sweden	295.76	–3.1	26	– 5.2	24	1.97	304.60	– 0.5
Switzerland	219 77	–2.6	23	– 6.9	26	1.62	164.32	– 2 4
Thailand	185.62	0.7	6	10.3	5	2.20	182.56	11.0
United States	253 30	1.6	4	0.8	14	2.25	253.30	0.8
COMPOSITE INDICES								
Europe	198.39	–1.2		– 1.2		3.03	174.28	2.6
Pacific Basin	163.90	–0.2		– 0.8		1.17	113.58	2.0
Europe/Pacific	178.16	–0.6		– 1.0		2.04	136.64	2.3
World	202.46	0.4		0.1		2.15	173.34	1.9

Source: Goldman, Sachs & Co. Exchange rates as of Friday's London close.
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CURRENCIES

Exchange rate	Friday	Last Friday	Week % Chg.	Year Ago
Japanese yen to the U.S. dollar	106 60	105.35	+1.19	99.40
German marks to the U.S. dollar	1.4905	1.4803	+0.69	1.5155
Canadian dollars to the U.S. dollar	1.3819	1.3672	+1.09	1.4145
U.S. dollars to the British pound	1.5037	1.5115	–0.52	1.5890

Source: Bloomberg Financial Markets: exchange rates as of Friday's New York close.

UPS AND DOWNS

Jan. 22-26: Stocks Rise, Bonds Fall in Nervous Markets

Sources: Bank Rate Monitor; Bloomberg Financial Markets; The Bond Buyer; Datastream; Goldman, Sachs; IBC's Money Fund Report; Merrill Lynch; Standard & Poor's; Ryan Labs

PRICES

DOMESTIC EQUITIES

Broad market	S.& P. 500 index	**Up 1.60%** 621.62
Blue chips	Dow 30 industrials	**Up 1.68%** 5,271.75
Small capitalization	Russell 2000 index	**Up 1.95%** 311.22

DOMESTIC BONDS

Treasuries	Ryan Labs. Total Return	**Down 0.37%** 192.33
Municipals	Bond Buyer index	**Down 0.98%** 120.47
Corporates	Merrill Lynch Master index	**Down 0.41%** 820.67

AROUND THE WORLD

European stocks	F.T.-Actuaries Europe	**Down 1.18%** 198.39
Asian stocks*	F.T.-Actuaries Pacific Basin	**Down 0.17%** 163.90
Gold	New York cash price	**Up 1.48%** $405.80

Foreign indexes are shown in dollar terms.

90-DAY RELATIVE TREND +12% 0 –12 N D J

90-DAY RELATIVE TREND +12% 0 –12 N D J

90-DAY RELATIVE TREND +12% 0 –12 N D J

YIELDS

BONDS

Long bonds	30-year Treasuries	**6.04%** Up 7 basis pts.
Short bonds	2-year Treasuries	**5.03%** Unchanged
Municipals	Bond Buyer index	**5.63%** Up 7 basis pts.

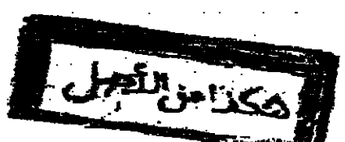
100 basis points = 1 percentage point

90-DAY RELATIVE TREND Change in basis points +120 0 –120 N D J

OTHER INVESTMENTS

Money market funds	Bank fund average	**5.03%** Down 1 basis pt.
Bank C.D.'s	1-year small savers	**4.84%** Down 3 basis pts.
Stocks	S.& P. 500 dividend yield	**2.29%** Down 3 b.p.

Change in basis points +120 0 –120 N D J



هكذا من الأصل

Real prospect of danger forces detention

LAW REPORT
ASHER FELIX LANDAU

In the Supreme Court, sitting as a High Court of Justice, before the president, Justice Aharon Barak, and justices Mishael Cheshin and Tova Strassberg-Cohen, in the matter of Shmuel Cytryn, petitioner, versus the IDF commander in Judea and Samaria (H.C. 7709/95).

Cytryn immigrated to Israel in 1978, and was active in the Jewish Defense League and Kach, a movement declared by the area military commander to be a terrorist organization. Three orders were issued limiting his entry to holy places, the third on January 1, 1995, effective until April 5. In November 1995, he was charged in the Jerusalem Magistrates Court with unlawfully possessing several magazines of ammunition for automatic weapons in his Kiryat Arba home.

On November 30, 1995, the IDF commander in Judea and Samaria, acting under Administrative Detention Order (Interim Provisions) (Judea and Samaria) No. 1223 of 1988, ordered Cytryn's detention from December 3, 1995, to March 3, 1996.

He appealed before a legally qualified military judge who allowed the appeal in part, requiring shortening the detention to end on February 9, 1996. Cytryn then petitioned the Supreme Court, sitting as a High Court of Justice, to set the order aside.

JUSTICE BARAK delivered the judgment of the court. The judge, he said, declined to disclose to Cytryn part of the evidence which was classified. However, he held that Cytryn had a background of violence and extreme utterances against Arabs, and had continued making these statements despite the ban on his visiting holy places. He had also expressed support for the slaughter in the Cave of the Patriarchs (the Machpela Cave). The judge was convinced his conduct "actually and immediately endangered the security of the area and the public."

The judge, he continued, also referred to an accident in which Cytryn's daughter was badly scalded by boiling water. Cytryn attended to her with devotion, and his mental state had been seriously affected by the accident. This feature of his mental state, the judge said, had not been brought before the commander. He also held the commander had not sufficiently weighed the possibility of a lesser limitation on Cytryn, such as restricting him to Kiryat Arba. In consideration of all the circumstances, however, he decided to reduce the detention period.

Cytryn's counsel contended he was wrongly denied access to the classified evidence, submitting Cytryn had been detained for his opinions and not his deeds. He also argued the commander's failure to weigh a lesser restriction was a ground for setting the order aside. He submitted the judge could not be expected to review an order of his military superior. He also complained of the conditions of Cytryn's detention regarding his praying in a minyan, receiving glatt kosher food, use of telephone and visiting privileges.

Counsel for the state said the injury to Cytryn's daughter and the possibility of a lesser restriction on him had been considered by the commander, and counsel's contention in this regard was mistaken. He submitted the judge was quite independent. He argued the detention was fully justified, stressing the redeployment of the army and the elections in the territories. In regard to prison conditions, he argued Cytryn could submit his complaints to the warden under section 62A of the Prisons Ordinance (New Version) of 1971.

The president said the court, with counsel's consent, had read the classified evidence. It was satisfied the interests of justice made it preferable to keep it secret rather than disclosing it, and it could also not be disclosed in this judgment. However, he would say, as he told counsel, that it revealed Cytryn as a man of extreme views and expressions and, in the opinion of the security authorities, he could easily proceed to acts endangering public security.

After considering the evidence in greater detail, Justice Barak held the facts before the commander fully justified the conclusion that if Cytryn were freed, there would be an almost certain prospect he would commit acts of violence damaging the security of the area, particularly under present conditions. The court had weighed the possibility of lesser restrictions, but was satisfied that less drastic measures were not practical at this juncture.

He did not accept the submission that the military judge would be inhibited in reviewing an order of his superior officer. Indeed, he had varied such an order in this very case.

In regard to the conditions of Cytryn's detention, he continued, the state's counsel had referred to the Emergency Regulations (Detentions) (Conditions of Administrative Detention) of 1981. However, the court had not heard full argument on this aspect, and would therefore not express an opinion.

It was to be remembered, Justice Barak concluded, that an administrative detainee was presumed innocent. He had not been tried and, of course, had not been convicted. He was therefore to be ensured the maximum possible freedom, subject only to those restrictions necessary to prevent the danger in anticipation of which he was detained.

FOR THE above reasons the petition was dismissed.

Naftali Werzberger appeared for Cytryn, and Yehuda Sheffer, senior assistant state attorney, appeared for the state.

The judgment was given on January 18, 1996

The underside of Russian politics

Professor Leonid Gozman talks to **Abraham Rabinovich** about what he sees as the eventual extinction of communism



Leonid Gozman feels that if the communists do win the presidency, they most likely will not survive the public's favor by the next election.

Descending from his academic tower to experience the grit of Russian grassroots politics, Leonid Gozman – a Jewish professor of political psychology at Moscow State University – ran for the Duma in last month's elections.

The provincial district in which he campaigned on a capitalist ticket had little sympathy for Jews, capitalists or Moscow intellectuals, and he was not elected. But his view of the underside of the Russian body politic in a dark season has left him with a surprisingly hopeful feeling – optimistic might be too strong a word – that Russia may yet be saved. "If we manage to survive the next four, [or] five years without a major war, we should be all right," he said last week during a visit to Jerusalem.

This is not an obvious conclusion, coming in the wake of an election that awarded the majority of parliamentary seats to a resurrected Communist Party and fascists led by Vladimir Zhirinovsky. Gozman himself hastened to admit that his hopes might be misplaced.

"It's an illusion to think the communists can't turn the country back," he said. "They can."

In a scenario he quickly sketched, the communists could emerge triumphant from June's presidential elections and attempt to meet the promises they have made to various sectors, from pensioners to the military, by a massive printing of rubles leading inexorably to inflation, the end of financial stability, deficits, rationing and, finally, an attempt to divert public dissatisfaction by finding internal or external enemies.

If the communists do win the all-important presidency, Gozman is not even sure that they will manage to avoid a major war. But with something like 80 percent of communist support coming from people aged 50 or over, demography alone should begin to shift the political balance significantly towards the liberal camp by the next election, he predicted.

Gozman was a personal adviser to former prime minister Yegor Gaidar, who attempted to implement far-reaching economic reforms. Sacked by President Boris Yeltsin, Gaidar headed the most liberal party participating in the recent elections, Democratic Choice for Russia.

Gozman ran on Democratic Choice's ticket. He drafted the party platform and, in an intensive month of campaigning, he made three or four speeches a day in his district, about two hours' drive from Moscow. The grayness of the towns and the passivity of their populations contrasted strongly with the dynamism and occasional sparkle of today's Moscow.

"The district was like what Moscow was in the '60s – dark, cold, no sign of new life, depressed," Gozman said.

It is on such an environment of hopelessness that communism and fascism feed, he noted. The communist appeal is nostalgic – "forward to the past," Gozman said sardonically – and its constituency is principally an elderly population longing for the stability they once knew.

The communist leadership now includes many "new capitalists" who have made fortunes and aspire to being part of a financial oligarchy protected from competition. True believers in Karl Marx are confined to the rank-and-file.

In contrast, the fascist constituency is younger, working class and poorly educated.

"The fascist message," Gozman said, "is 'You are strong, this is your enemy – Chechens, Jews, NATO or whatever. If we take power everybody will respect us and no longer ignore us as they do today.'"

AS BLEAK as the communist-fascist victory appears, Gozman said, there are good tidings from the election front as well. Even the most retrograde of the parties implicitly accepts that the fate of Russia will be decided democratically.

"I never heard a communist or fascist say that if they don't win by democratic means they will take over by force," Gozman said. "I don't see a potential for a new revolution in Russia and that's very nice."

The level of violence and antisemitism in the campaign was much lower than expected. "I drove 300 kilometers a day, met hundreds of people, parked my car anywhere and nothing happened," he said.

His Jewishness, which he made a point of noting in his speeches, drew adverse verbal reactions from members of the audience on only two or three occasions and other members of the audience always came to his defense.

"All fascist parties which used ethnic slogans were defeated," he added. "Zhirinovsky's party is not nationalist fascist but imperialist – it wants to rebuild the Russian empire. Most of his supporters know he's half-Jewish – his family name was Edelstein – but it doesn't bother them."

There is an antimilitarism at the grass-roots level resisting the strong push for remilitarization at the top exemplified by the Duma's decision to extend military service from 18 months to 24 months.

The most dangerous party in the election by far, Gozman said, was not the communists or fascists but the nationalist party led by Gen. Alexander Lebed, which was roundly defeated, although Lebed himself won a place in the Duma.

"In my campaign I called for reform of the army," he explained. "We have 2,000 generals, more than in all the NATO countries combined. The soldiers are semiliterate. They are angry, underfed, ill and subject to humiliation and brutality. They see the generals enriching themselves. So the army cannot fight.

"In my campaign, I called for giving Chechnya independence. They are a national independence movement and they have won this war. We have lost. I was the only candidate who said this and people responded well to it."

What does it all add up to? A slide into chaos or a bit of mild stumbling before Russia finds its feet?

"No one knows," Gozman said.

Yeltsin will probably stand for reelection in June, but he has dismissed many of the best people in government and cultivated the military-security leadership directly responsible for the Chechnya humiliation. If the communists win, war cannot be ruled out, Gozman said.

"There's no problem finding an enemy," he pointed out. "Why not a war with Ukraine over Crimea? Or with China over the Chinese who have settled illegally in Siberia?"

Nuclear war? It's very easy to begin a limited war, Gozman noted, but you never know how it will end.

"If we survive as a country, I'm sure that the parliament elected in 1999 and the president elected in 2001 will be much more [in favor of] democracy than the current ones," he said. "We are witnessing the last gasp of communism. If we survive four or five years, it will be the end of communism. Young people don't believe in it nor do educated people or people in large cities. Time is on our side."

Pollution laws must apply to protesters and homeowners alike

EARTHLY CONCERNS
D'VORA BEN SHAUL

It is a sad fact that laws against air and water pollution are not enforced equally against offenders.

In the past few years, a large number of homeowners have been fined for burning a barrel of trash or a mound of leaves in their gardens. According to the law, this constitutes air pollution and a fire hazard.

But at every demonstration, whether it be political or industrial, tires are burned and black, greasy, detestable smoke billows out over kilometers of the surrounding area.

And the police stand by, sometimes looking on warily, more often benignly.

It seems that a protester is above and beyond the laws of the land. There have been cases where people involved in industrial action have opened the taps and let raw sewage exit to the sea, an act for which any company or municipality would have paid enormous fines and the persons directly responsible would have faced prison sentences.

This all points to the fact that anti-pollution laws are not taken seriously.

In France, even in the wake of the massive and unprecedented general strike, 600 people were charged and punished for contravening environmental laws.

Here we feel that the demonstrator – whatever his cause – is entitled to take whatever kind of action he sees fit. . It is also a sad fact that the Histadrut seems to ignore this problem. The labor organization has a department of environmental protection, but this section has failed to issue guidelines on what kind of action is acceptable at demonstrations and industrial action.

What this means is that there are different laws for different people, and the right to strike or to demonstrate takes precedence over all other laws.

But we desperately need one law for all. If the air we breathe or the water we drink is damaged by industrial pollution or by demonstrators the result is the same: It is the public who is at risk.

It seems absurd that in a country where one can be arrested for lighting a cigarette in a public place, one can burn a dozen tires or pollute an entire coast in the name of industrial action.

What we need is not only new laws, but new attitudes. And it does not matter how sacred the national socialistic institutions hold the right to industrial action, or how well established the right to demonstrate. No one must be allowed to contravene the law.

LIBI – The Fund for Strengthening Israel's Defense

Southern Command's Medical Center Dedicated

A building housing the specialist clinics of Southern Command was dedicated last week, in Beersheba. The facility, which was built with support from the Libi Fund, is the first unit in a large project, which, in addition, will comprise an area hospital and dental clinic.
When completed, this medical center will replace various facilities which were transferred to Southern Command when Sinai was evacuated, and which are currently housed in run-down buildings.
This center will greatly improve the standard of medical treatment, enjoyed by Southern Command soldiers.



(From right to left): General (Res.) Matt, Chairman of the Libi Fund, General Shuki Shemer, Chief Medical Officer, and General Shaul Mofaz, C.O. Southern Command, at the dedication ceremony.

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THE JERUSALEM POST

BUSINESS & FINANCE

8 MONDAY, JANUARY 29, 1996

Elite aims to cut losses in Europe

GALIT LIPKIS BECK



Clal Israel head David Wainshal: We want to be at least equal [in ownership]. (Ron Erde)

ELITE Industries will take drastic measures to reduce its losses in Western Europe as soon as its chairman and general manager David Federman reaches a partnership agreement with Clal Industries, sources close to the negotiations said yesterday.

Clal Industries is in intense negotiations to purchase a 21-percent stake in Elite from the Federman group, which controls 42% of the controlling shares and 16% of the stock capital.

The companies entered negotiations at the end of last week immediately after the Federman group – which includes David Federman, his father and his brother – purchased the British Man company's 24% stake in the chocolate manufacturer for $44 million.

The agreement, which is being formulated by a team headed by Federman and Clal Industries general manager Meir Laser, will include details about ownership, the company's business strategy and management. The two sides hope to come to an agreement within the next few days.

"Our team is in negotiations with Federman, and only when we reach an agreement will we know the details," Clal Israel president and CEO David Wainshal said. "I assume we will want to be at least equal [in ownership]: how and if still have to be discussed."

Federman and Clal currently have a gentleman's agreement whereby Clal will purchase half of Federman's shares and appoint half of Elite's board of directors. The companies also agreed that Federman will continue to manage Elite, at least in the short run, while Clal will appoint the chairman.

Among Federman's urgent priorities will be to reduce Elite's losses in Western Europe, primarily in Union, the company's coffee manufacturing subsidiary in Berlin. Elite may reportedly have to close Union.

According to *Ha'aretz*, Clal and Federman will share the "damage," amounting to some $3 million, resulting from the high price Federman offered Man for the shares.

Federman, after receiving the green light from Clal, raised his bid so as to outbid the Bino-Liberman consortium, which also competed for the shares.

'95 trade deficit up 40%

Jerusalem Post Staff

THE country's overall trade deficit last year, excluding diamonds, rose 40 percent from 1994 to $10.3 billion, the Central Bureau of Statistics announced yesterday.

The largest gap between exports and imports was recorded in its trade with the European Union, which registered a $6.6b. trade surplus with Israel.

The balances with the US and Asia were also negative, totaling $1.5b. and $900 million respectively. Compared to 1994, Israel's trade gap with the US grew by 78% and with Asia by 19%.

In contrast, the diamond industry recorded a $200m. trade surplus, up 4.5%. Half of Israel's diamond exports went to the US. Including diamonds, Israel had a $450m. trade surplus with the US. This surplus was, however, 55% lower than the previous year.

Israel's trade balance is ordinarily calculated excluding diamonds, due to the relatively low added value of the industry, which imports expensive stones before polishing and exporting them.

The overall import of goods totaled $28.3b. with diamonds and $23.7b. without them. Half the imported goods, excluding diamonds, originated in the 15-member European Union, 22% in the US, and 11% in Asia.

In comparison with the previous year, total imports grew $4.1b. A particularly notable rise was registered in imports from Italy, where the lira depreciated markedly last year compared to all the major currencies.

Overall exports totaled $19b. with diamonds and $13.4 b. without them. Notable growth was registered in exports to Holland, Germany, France and the UK.

In Asia, exports to Korea doubled and reached $300m., while exports to Japan grew by $100m. Exports to India and the Philippines, meanwhile, declined by $65m. and $35m. respectively.

Court procedures could delay banks' decision to close on Friday

GALIT LIPKIS BECK



Abeles: Against banks closing on different days. (Tav Or)

THE banking sector's shift to a five-day work week may be delayed by a year or two if the banks are forced to receive prior approval from the Anti-Trust Court, an Association of Banks spokesman said yesterday.

The spokesman reacted to Supervisor of Monopolies Yoram Turbovitz's recent remark that the banks' move to a five-day work week is a binding agreement which is subject to the approval of the Anti-Trust Court.

The banks are expected to close on Friday as of March 1, following an agreement reached with the Histadrut.

According to a Bank Association spokesman, the banks are currently waiting to receive Turbovitz's official announcement on the issue.

"I assume we will have to go to a special court, which will decide on the issue," the spokesman said. "A legal procedure is not only complicated but can also take years, since it involves appointing a district court judge in Jerusalem who will set up a committee of representatives from the public to decide on the issue."

A source close to Turbovitz said the Anti-Trust Court will have to decide if the banks' unilateral decision to close on Friday constitutes a cartel.

The source said Turbovitz does not object to the banks' move to a five-day work week.

In reaction, a Bank of Israel spokesman said Supervisor of Banks Ze'ev Abeles is against banks closing on different days of the week. He said Abeles has not placed any restrictions on banks that decide to remain open on Friday.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Competition starts for small business, entrepreneur of year: The Small Business Authority is holding a competition to choose Israel's outstanding small business and entrepreneur of the year.

The contest is open to businesses employing between one and 50 people, whose annual turnover is under $5 million. Interested candidates should contact the Small Business Authority at 03-510-7555.

The last date for submitting an application is February 9.

This year was named the Year of the Small Business by the late Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

Eleven prizes in various categories will be awarded by Prime Minister Shimon Peres and Trade and Industry Minister Micha Harish at a ceremony to be held in Jerusalem before Independence Day.

Rachel Neiman

New Dimension Software introduces two new products: New Dimension Software, formerly 4th Dimension, has introduced two new products, Multiplatform Control-SA solution for enterprise-wide security administration and Enterprise Production Management solution for control of managing complex distributed computer environments.

New Dimension last week announced an agreement with Memco Software of New York for distribution of Multiplatform Control-SA in both the US and Canada.

Rachel Neiman

EduConcept CD game honored by 'PC Magazine': *Zaark and the Night Team in Search of Patterns*, a CD game published by US edutainment company Maxis has been named one of *PC Magazine's* top 75 CDs of 1995. The game was developed and produced by Tel Aviv-based EduConcept.

Rachel Neiman

Hyper-Hyper agrees to buy Mahsanei Harakevet: Coop Blue Square subsidiary Hyper-Hyper has agreed to purchase Beersheba hypermarket Mahsanei Harakevet from HyperZol for $5 million.

Rachel Neiman

Suspected stock manipulator Ya'akov Eini released on bail: Suspected stock manipulator Ya'akov Eini was released on bail on Friday, while his brother Meir remains under house arrest until this Friday.

Company board members Moshe Deklo and Avi Blu have been named acting general managers of JM Eini, working alongside the Eini brothers.

Deklo will carry out responsibilities in the areas of finance, supply and sales, while Blu will be in charge of bank cash flow.

Rachel Neiman

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Redemption Price:	106.66

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IEC reports 15% drop in interrupted service in '95

RACHEL NEIMAN

THE Israel Electric Corporation has reported a 15 percent drop in interrupted service last year from 1994.

Blackouts totaled 223 minutes last year, compared with 263 in 1994. Planned blackouts for infrastructure work made up 60% of all interruptions.

To improve customer service, IEC has embarked on a policy of working on live wires. Of all works performed this year, 20% will be on live wires.

There are currently 30 approved types of live-wire jobs, but the list is expected to increase to 40 shortly.

IEC has budgeted $11 million to increase this type of work, including special worker training, protective devices and specially insulated scaffolds and ladders.

There are now nine teams trained to work on live wires, compared with five in 1994. The IEC has set a target goal of 34 teams by 1997.

Council of Transporters and Carriers calls on Peres to quicken building Trans-Israel Highway

HAIM SHAPIRO

THE Council of Transporters and Carriers yesterday sent an urgent letter to Prime Minister Shimon Peres calling on him to speed up construction of the Trans-Israel Highway.

The letter came the day after thousands of people gathered under the auspices of the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel (SPNI) and held protest hikes near the planned Ben-Shemen Interchange.

Environmental groups are calling for a re-evaluation of the entire project.

In their letter yesterday, the carriers noted that the highway has already been approved by the government. They called on Peres to disregard the environmentalists and their supporters in the government.

In the letter, council chairman Menashe Haddad said the carriers had agreed to accept limitations on the movement of trucks during certain hours and in some lanes, but only because they saw the Trans-Israel Highway as an alternative to existing arteries which were now closed to them.

If there was any delay in building the road or change in government policy, he said, it would cancel the agreements made with the carriers and result in loaded trucks filling the roads, even in urban areas.

Haddad said 95 percent of all cargo is carried by trucks.

Meanwhile, he added that the government is planning to offer Jordan the use of the Haifa and Ashdod ports.

Also, some 100,000 new vehicles are being added to the roads annually.

Maritime Bank appoints Levinson as new CEO

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

MARITIME Bank's board of directors has appointed Granit Hacarmel Property chief executive officer David Levinson as the bank's new CEO effective March 1, the bank announced yesterday.

He replaces Amir Geva, who recently resigned.

The bank denied rumors that the change at the top is related to its recent strategic revision.

Several months ago the bank's board decided to refocus its activities from the capital market to commercial banking.

Geva is considered more of a specialist in the capital market and less in other banking activities.

The board's decision was made in reaction to Maritime's drop in earnings last year, due primarily to lower profits from capital market activities, which significantly reduced operating earnings.

The bank completed the first nine months of the year with a net profit of NIS 1.95 million, compared with a net profit of NIS 13.16m. in the corresponding period in 1994.

Maritime Bank said Geva's resignation was due to "personal reasons and also his intentions to engage and develop activities outside of the bank.

Management expressed "its appreciation to Mr. Geva and his contribution to the bank in the period during which he served as manager, a period which will be remembered for the change in the bank's business policy and development."

Levinson was in charge of Bank Hapoalim's overseas branches and responsible for the bank's relationship with foreign institutions and private investors, before joining Granit one year ago.

He also served as general manager of Continental Bank, a Bank Hapoalim subsidiary.

Real Estate & Investments in Israel 1996

Just before Pessach,
The Jerusalem Post
will publish special supplements, devoted to real estate and investments in Israel.

The supplements will be published in the International Editions of March 4, 11 and 18 and in the daily paper on April 5.

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3. Bids should be placed in the tenders box at 15 Rehov Hazvi, Jerusalem, not later than 6 p.m. on March 12, 1996.
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Hoechst AG shuts plant after accident

FRANKFURT (Reuter) – Germany's largest chemicals group Hoechst AG was ordered to shut down a plant in suburban Frankfurt after toxic powder escaped following an accident, the Hesse state environment ministry said yesterday.

Production will be halted until investigators determine the cause of the accident and adequate precautions are taken to guard against future accidents, the ministry said.

"No clear cause of the accident has been determined yet," said Hesse environment minister Margarethe Nimsch after a news conference yesterday.

She added that Hoechst officials presume human error led to the accident.

Early on Saturday one tonne of the toxic white powder Isoproturon drifted out of the plant after an accident with pressurized equipment tore a hole in the plant's roof, Hoechst said.

The production plant was closed down on Saturday night, but Hoechst's AgrEvo plant protection unit still operates two other sites producing Isoproturon in the Griesheim complex.



ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (29.1.96)

Currency (deposit for:)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar ($250,000)	4.625	4.500	4.375
Pound sterling (£100,000)	4.375	4.375	4.250
German mark (DM 200,000)	1.875	1.750	2.000
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.250	0.250	0.250
Yen (10 million yen)	—	—	—

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (26.1.96)

	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS Buy	Sell	BANKNOTES Buy	Sell	Rep. Rates**
Currency basket	3.5162	3.5730	—	—	3.5457
U.S. dollar	3.1206	3.1803	3.07	3.23	3.1560
German mark	2.1048	2.1398	2.08	2.17	2.1220
Pound sterling	4.7167	4.7928	4.63	4.86	4.7570
French franc	0.6124	0.6223	0.60	0.64	0.6177
Japanese yen (100)	2.9312	2.9785	2.88	3.02	2.9555
Dutch florin	1.8780	1.9094	1.84	1.94	1.8951
Swiss franc	2.6075	2.6496	2.56	2.69	2.6283
Swedish krona	0.4526	0.4599	0.44	0.47	0.4568
Norwegian krone	0.4803	0.4881	0.47	0.50	0.4845
Danish krone	0.5440	0.5528	0.53	0.57	0.5478
Finnish mark	0.6832	0.6943	0.67	0.71	0.6886
Canadian dollar	2.2712	2.3078	2.23	2.34	2.2904
Australian dollar	2.3096	2.3469	2.26	2.39	2.3271
S. African rand	0.8567	0.8706	0.77	0.88	0.8639
Belgian franc (10)	1.0234	1.0400	1.00	1.06	1.0320
Austrian schilling (10)	2.8826	3.0409	2.94	3.09	3.0172
Italian lira (1000)	1.9505	1.9820	1.91	2.01	1.9672
Jordanian dinar	—	—	4.30	4.60	4.4184
Egyptian pound	—	—	0.89	0.97	0.9310
ECU	3.8470	3.9091	—	—	3.8805
Irish punt	4.8933	4.9723	4.80	5.05	4.9814
Spanish pesera (100)	2.4858	2.5257	2.44	2.57	2.5071

* These rates vary according to bank. ** Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

هكذا من الأصل

Key Representative Rates		Change
US dollar	NIS 3.1580	--.--%
Sterling	NIS 4.7570	--.--%
Mark	NIS 2.1220	--.--%

Precious metals market starts climb toward $400

COMMODITIES ROUNDUP

FRIDAY'S precious metals market fulfilled Thursday's original forecast, as funds and speculators began to take further profits as the market mounts a slow climb toward the $410 mark on the April futures contract.

A stronger US dollar also kept pressure on any upside attempt by gold futures, sources said.

Continued failure to balance the federal budget or extend a debt-limit ceiling has prompted increasing alarm in the financial markets, but not all metals analysts believe that gold is being boosted by concerns over debt limits.

At the close, February gold prices were 90 cents lower at $405.80, April platinum prices were $4.00 lower at $422.10 and March palladium was $2.95 lower at $128.30.

Silver futures settled weaker on Friday following an early rally which stalled after gold failed to hit the key $410 an ounce level. March silver prices were four cents lower at $5.545 an ounce.

Silver has been persistently lagging behind gold since the beginning of the year, despite a recent decrease in Comex warehouse stocks to eight-year lows.

After a quiet day of uneventful trading, Comex copper futures ended lower on Friday as the market absorbed another hike in LME stocks.

The March Comex copper future ended 0.70 cents down at 112.90 cents a pound.

Cbot corn futures were boosted to a higher close on Friday, pushed by a rally in the wheat pits, traders said. Prices may have also reacted to a visit to the US by Russia's acting agriculture minister who announced that Russia would be purchasing US grains.

March corn closed up 1¼ at $3.57½.

Cbot wheat rallied on Friday on heavy fund buying and aggressive exports to China as well as rumors that Russia will be purchasing wheat, traders said. The March futures contract closed up 16 at $5.06¾ per bushel.

Soybean futures closed lower on fund selling on Friday, traders said. Favorable crop weather in South America also contributed to a bearish sentiment and the March futures contract closed down one at $7.24½ per bushel.

A price correction after a two-day rally eased NYCE cotton futures to a slightly lower close on Friday, traders said. The active March contract closed down 0.24 cents at 87.50 a pound.

CSCE March sugar futures ended sharply higher in brisk trading on Friday as fund buying pushed the March contract to an 11-month settlement high, traders said. The March contract settled 0.47 higher at 12.19 cents a pound.

CSCE coffee futures settled higher for the fourth consecutive day on Friday, boosted by fresh fund buying, traders said. The March contract settled 5.20 cents higher at 116.95 cents a pound.

An announcement by the ACPC that they would extend the coffee export quota scheme beyond June 1996 also supported prices.

Courtesy of Michael Zwebner, CommStock Trading Ltd.

US central bank considers cut in rates again

WASHINGTON (Reuter) – The Federal Reserve meets this week to consider cutting interest rates for the second time in two months to pep up the US economy.

With growth slowing and inflation fears receding, most analysts are convinced another rate cut is likely, but they are unsure whether it will occur this week or later in the first quarter.

In a poll of 50 private economists, 43 forecast the central bank would lower short-term rates in the first quarter. About half expect the Fed to act this week, at a two-day meeting that starts tomorrow.

Japanese mad at state loan scheme

TOKYO (Reuter) – Public anger has been running high in Japan since taxpayers learned they must help foot the bill for a bad loan mess with ugly strands snaking through the corridors of political, financial and bureaucratic power.

"Trying to find morals in politicians and bankers is like trying to find morals in cockroaches," said critic Makoto Sataka, main speaker at a meeting on Thursday of a citizens' protest group against a government scheme to resolve the issue.

The government plans to use a huge dose of taxpayers' money to clean up the mess involving seven housing loan firms, now virtually insolvent, which sank under the weight of rash property loans made during the "bubble" economy of the 1980s.

The loans, many of which authorities have said were made to firms linked with gangsters, went bad when the "bubble" burst and real estate prices slumped in the early 1990s.

Around 685 billion yen in public money has already been earmarked to help cover losses from loans deemed "unrecoverable", and the ruling coalition has also promised public funds to cover half of any future losses arising.

Newspaper polls have shown that over 70 percent of Japanese oppose the use of public money in the government scheme.

"You have people who took out loans and then had their houses fall on them in the [January 1995] Kobe earthquake, but they still have to pay their loans back," said Hisako Iwase, one of the protest group's organizers.

"For the government to ask them to bail out financial institutions which couldn't get their act together is plain wicked."

Participants' anger was directed at what they saw as perpetual corruption in government, rather than the mortgage firms themselves. "It's the whole economic system which is bad – politicians, bureaucrats and bankers," said Susumu Hirao, 67, a teacher who attended the inaugural meeting. It drew more than 250 people and the group now plans to extend its network nationwide.

Finance Ministry bureaucrats, regulators of the industry, have come under most fire since it came to light that many secured well-paid jobs at the mortgage firms on retiring.

Right-wing activists have been especially vocal, accusing the government of using public pay for its own sins.

In two separate protest incidents in the past week, rightists rammed buses into the gates of parliament and police headquarters. In the latter case, the driver mistook the police building for the Finance Ministry.

Whether public ire will remain strong enough to change the course of the government policy is another matter.

The coalition has stated it is committed to the plan and most banks involved in the controversy have agreed in principle to its content. Moreover, the same polls which detail public anger to the scheme also show strong support for new Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto and his cabinet, who took office this month.

This is despite the fact that Hashimoto served as finance minister in 1990 when the ministry introduced restrictions on lending to real estate developers but exempted mortgage firms.

The main opposition party also has ex-finance ministers in its ranks and analysts say that while it will make a song and dance about the scheme, it does not want to kill it outright.

"The plan looks like its going through... the Japanese public are going to get their pockets picked and that's the bottom line," said John Neuffer, a political analyst at Mitsui Marine Research Institute.

But Neuffer also said current fury could "make it more difficult for taxpayers' funds to be used in future bailouts," and that some smaller financially troubled banks could find themselves without government rescue plans.

Both indexes rise

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET

ROBERT DANIEL



STOCKS, led by Koor Industries Ltd., advanced after Wall Street's record-setting rise on Friday.

Wall Street "lately has been pulling us or pushing us," said Eitan Shtarkman, mutual fund manager at Zeler Avlagon in Ramat Gan. "It depends on whether the Dow Jones has been up or down." The Dow Jones Industrial Average reached a record 5271.75 Friday.

Koor was the most active stock yesterday, up 2.5 percent on NIS 12.7 million of shares traded. Koor, which has some three dozen businesses, saw its American depositary receipts hit a high of 21½ on Friday.

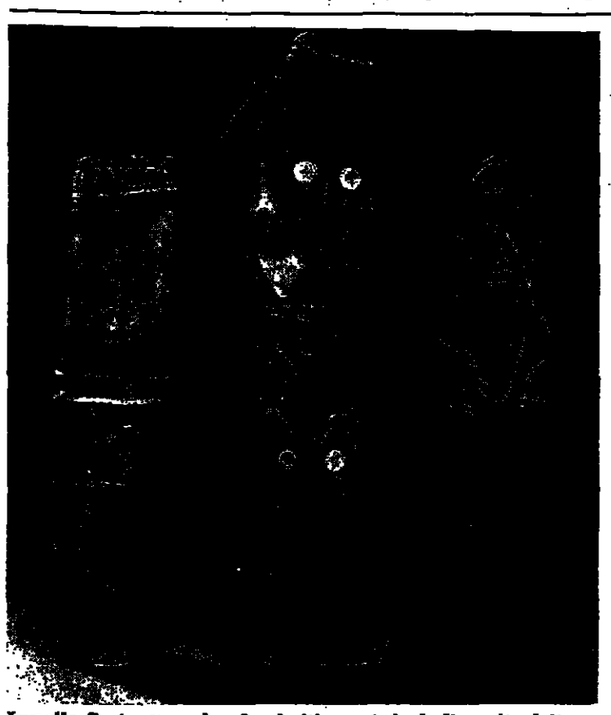
Also, Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd., which accounts for 10% of the value of the Maof Index, rose 1%.

The Two-Sided Index closed up 0.51% at 213.23, while the Maof Index added 0.69% to 222.43.

On January 4, the Two-Sided reached 215.18, its highest close since May 1994.

Declining and advancing stocks were about even across the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange. Volume was NIS 117.7m., 13% above the month's average of NIS 104m.

Investors have an eye on the central bank, which today will set the rate at which it lends to banks. That figure is 13.7% and few analysts see the bank making any change. (Bloomberg)



Israel's first ever sale of primitive art, including ritual items used by Papuan tribes, will be held next week in Herzliya's Tiroche gallery. (Meir Ronen)

China threat hits Taiwan economy

TAIPEI (Reuter) – China's latest threat has hit Taiwan where it hurts – in its economy.

Beijing's refusal to deny a *New York Times* report that it has plans for a "limited attack" on the island after presidential elections here on March 23, has had both concrete and psychological effects.

Taiwan's share index closed on Saturday at 4,861.53 points, down 3.5 percent from the start of the week and below the 5,000-point level which had acted as a key support in the slow recovery of a market that fell 27% in 1995.

Brokers said the fall was due to China's reported plan for 30 days of missile strikes after the election to teach a lesson to the expected victor in the polls, President Lee Teng-hui.

"Very few people are willing to enter the market now amid all these uncertainties," said Eric Liu of brokerage National Securities in Taipei. "It's too much of a risk."

Alarmed industrialists criticized the government for antagonizing China just as newly released figures showed this island's slowing economy could ill-afford a confidence crisis.

"I think the political argument at this stage is silly, because people's welfare is more important," said Earle Ho, chairman and CEO of major steelmaker Tung Ho Steel Enterprise.

Ho's company has joined in a US$60 million tin plate project in China. Like many Taiwan investors on the Chinese mainland, it sees good relations with Beijing as paramount.

Ho said Taiwan's economy was plagued by rising costs and narrowing profit margins – two of many complaints cited by investors who have poured US$24 billion into China's promising market.

The New York Times report quoted Chinese officials as telling a former US administration official that Beijing wanted to pressure Lee into scaling back his efforts to gain greater international recognition for Taiwan.

China, which has been at odds with Taiwan since the end of a civil war in 1949, regards the island as a renegade province that is not entitled to a place on the world stage.

At the root of China's anger with Taiwan is a belief that Lee, while professing a goal of reunification, wants to steer the island toward formal independence from its giant neighbor.

But while many in Taiwan support a separate political identity, more and more people see that their economic future is inseparable from China.

A Chinese National Federation of Industries survey said last week that 70.18 percent of 117 local businessmen polled were apprehensive over mounting tensions across the Taiwan Straits.

Most respondents also said Taiwan's grand design to engineer itself into a regional center for manufacturing, financial and transport industries would be just a dream unless relations with China improved.

"Who, I ask you, is going to make their regional operations base in a island under constant threat of attack from one of the most unpredictable countries on earth?" said a representative from a major foreign manufacturing company based here.

Other analysts said a spate of statistics showing declining health in this Asian Tiger's economy would put pressure on Lee to find an accommodation with China as the election nears.

On Saturday the index of leading indicators, which forecasts economic activity, predicted a declining trend or "blue light" for the third straight month.

Businessmen pessimistic about the economy outnumbered optimists for the eighth consecutive month, with 27% expecting a downturn while 15% seeing growth, the government said.

Industrial output in December fell 2.12% from a year earlier, the first year-on-year decline for 22 months.

TEL AVIV STOCKS

Multi-sided trading

Commercial Banks

Name	Price	%chg
IndDevBK	17624	-7.0
IndDevDD		
IndDvPrD		
MerlC	185.50	
MisrkaniC		
Of-H	149616	
Trade	490	
TradeC	152.50	

Mortgage Banks & Finance

Name	Price	%chg
Adanim	417515	
Cannel	367	-10.0
CanaCS	270	
FirstMB	39600	-1.5
IndptMB	63351	
I lsmC	139.00	
JlemBnk	188.00	-0.5
LeumiMBR	46349	2.0
Mizrkv	6790	
TefahotB	197057	1.0
TefahotR	187418	1.5

Financial institutions Insurance

Name	Price	%chg
Ackins	142.00	2.2
AmrAshrms	976	2.3
Ayalon	484	-0.4
AyalonC		
Elan	409	
ElanC1	230	
Hadarl	525	
Hadar5	486	
HamshrmC	299	1.3
Hamshsr1	1570	
Hamshsr5	1598	0.3
Menorah1	906	2.0
Menorah5	911	
Phoenix1	2423	1.8
Phoenix5	2355	2.3
Sahar	709	
Zion5	9205	

Trade & Services

Name	Price	%chg
abcndsgn	69.00	-2.1
alnerbit	696	
Arkia	1367	0.5
gilisk	676	-1.5
Hadrmkln	485	-5.8
Isotronic	145.50	
Ispklasr	822	-1.0
ispanlymkt	782	1.2
ispnaya	2752	-1.0
Isracn	1388	-2.5
radiosalut	159.50	2.2
techsn	887	-7.5
Yrl	208	-1.0
Ydgar	78.00	-0.9
BezekW2	285	-0.4
BndWrtC1	146.50	
BndWrtC2	140.50	0.4
BondWrt1 L	3448	1.5
Cdnp2.1	45808	-5.0
Cel Comp	27174	
CelCmpC	250	0.4
Dorotnet	978	-1.2
GovBench	1408	-1.0
Crystal	2011	
Dalin1	2.30	
Danel	1404	
DanHotel	2202	
Dede	757	2.0
DCI	831	
Elad	94.00	-2.1
Elsech	391	-2.0
Feldmnn	2.23	0.5
Gal	288	
GanHadar	260	
GanHadC	324	
GrantsC1	111.50	0.5
Granot	479	-0.4
GrantW2	34.50	-0.9
Greenbrg	147.00	-10.1
HGICI	148.00	
HGIW1	36.50	-10.1
HGtn	239	-0.5
Ingsmn1	3091	-0.3
IngsmnS	3031	
ILDC+OT	419	0.5
Kinrt	68.50	
Kopel	132.50	-2.2
Lssiz	1149	-2.2
Mvki	1184	-1.3
Medtech	484	
MLLC1	175.50	
MLL1	188	
MSPR	828	0.6
Nrgal1	1881	-0.5
Rapac	1920	
Regency Ho	126.00	-1.5
Rekhsf	88.50	4.1
RestrntC1	130.50	0.4
Tasa	1906	1.5
TeamC1	184.00	0.5
Telsys	1044	1.0
Tfpline	482	-1.0
TrdmtLtn	1132	
Yaad	505	
YaadC1	130.00	
Yisrex	1134	
Yodan1	948	9.7
Yona	398	

Industrials

Name	Price	%chg
ashotashk	178.00	-2.5
Inco	486	2.7
kadoorasgn	297	1.0
kpnan	2002	-0.5
phylton	340	
Rotbg	556	3.0
tolmsalr	553	4.9
Vitmtrix	78.50	
yakodasg	517	
Zimrasal	1874	0.5
AdvancC	131.50	-0.4
Alony	221	-9.8
Alumkt1L	7386	-1.2
Angel	6330	
Argaman	354	-4.8
Arytt	186.50	-3.3
ArytC1	43.90	-1.3
Ashphy	1480	-9.8
AshphyC1	188.00	-3.1
Ashtrom	575	-0.5
Azorcm	294	
AzorcmW1	60.00	
Azimuth	909	
Belmon	446	-0.9
Boulo	171.50	
BoulocC1	208	
Brcm1	227	
CablesC3	143.00	-0.3
CablesW3	187.00	
Caroline	830	2.8
Carpet	1032	1.3
Casmo	1205	1.0
Chem	285	1.8
ClalSnC	337	-1.5
ClalSnG1	1662	-3.5
Clnd C8	151.50	
Cyclone1	2551	-10.0
Cyclone5	1783	-10.0
CyclonC1	148.50	1.4
CyclonC2	65.50	-10.3
Delkrnn	300	
Delrom	1965	-0.5
Dexson	298	-0.3
Dota. 1	941	
Dota3	941	-0.2
DotaW8	128.00	
DuperR	12804	
EldanTec	39.20	-5.3
Elron	187.00	-3.5
Elrotnet	7751	
Elscmcs	999	2.5
Elco 0.5	9729	-1.0
ElectrG4	390	
ElshiRobc	351	
Evrot	345	
Fibrex	1.45	
FiberW2	8316	0.5
FinChem	384	-1.5
Fox	959	2.0
FrdgeA	182.50	-0.3
FrdgeC1	186.00	
Frtstcl	473	-0.4
Poseidon	45.50	-1.3
PCB	728	
Rabinex	149.50	5.3
RabinexW	17.50	
Sanitec1	196.50	1.0
Sano1	1283	-2.0
Sano5	1134	-2.0
Sefan	499	0.4
Shenen	14088	-2.5
Shtarkm	88.00	2.3
Spcstnc	193.00	0.5
Suntrust	5328	3.0
Tisil	278	-1.1
Tadiran	643	2.2
Tasia	310	-4.8
Tedea	1776	1.0
TeleeC		
Tiv	331	
Tobles1	842	
Toolser	70.00	-9.4
TATC1	184.00	0.3
TAT1	368	
Unitex1	743	-8.3
Unitex5	357	
Vitalgn1	309	-1.9
Vrdnstn	948	
VulcanC	183.50	
Wandlnsn	16186	-8.0
WrldnWB	5370	
YitongC2		
Zeltzvl	212	
Zim1	1397	-1.5
Zim5	1348	
Zindt	3424	-3.0
Zindt5	2762	1.0
ZionCab1	551	-1.4
Zohar#d	410	-1.0

Property, Building & Agriculture

Name	Price	%chg
a.dori	282	-1.8
alonBetz	94.50	
bukRpro	428	-0.8
gramdor	94.80	
jacobsr	154.00	0.7
perdor	542	1.3
rsved	343	2.1
tzrifin	485	-1.0
walbon	89641	0.5
y.stang	154.00	-2.8
Ackr	197.00	-5.5
Alcor	1476	-1.0
Arazim	204	-2.9
Arazim C1	186.50	
Arbel1	1222	0.7
Assis	997	
AsslaCe	151.00	1.3
AsslaW2	8.90	
Assnis	978	
AssuCC1	239	-0.9
AzorpC1	276	1.1
AzorProp	621	-1.0
Bar—Tzvi1	1480	
Barnir1	666	
Bayside5	31507	3.5
BeyaltC1	31092	
BeitYaKo	1676	1.0
BeitYaKoW1	72.00	5.9
BeytYaniC	105.00	
BldgRes	2445	
BLNTIN	1880	
Gazelnv1	4008	8.7
GrdenDev	485	-0.9
Gvshcr	1439	
Dankr	734	-0.5
DanRsec	1933	-1.2
DanRsecC	171.50	
Danrdt1	148.00	-1.0
Dunksr	5112	
Engel	413	1.2
Elscit	479	
EstsHous	3252	
EstsHouC	257	
Hpro	2970	
Ilanium	1822	-0.5
IlaniumC	295	
IsrasCn	198.50	0.3
IsrasO.5	4527	
Israel	4507	-1.5
ICPS	23770	-3.0
Jeyadan1	112.50	
Jordan	485	-4.9
Lazrkch	192.50	-1.5
LazrdC1	189.50	0.4
Lazrdch	317	
Lazrds5	148.00	1.0
Lusar1	2010	0.2
Lusadm1	748	-0.5
MalibuC2	138.50	0.4
Malibu5	862	0.5
MarLazkC2	116.50	-0.9
MarLazW3	55.00	4.8
Matalon	1121	
Mayer	1080	
Mishanot	89.00	
MLT	1312	1.0
MTM	1492	-0.3
Neotsiv	1197	
OcdC1	140.00	0.4
OcdW1	3026	3.0
Ofrakds	978	
Oz	300	
Paypot	1989	2.0
PrtOr	7200	0.5
Reseco	1611	-0.2
Rextlss	536	-0.2
Rogovin1L	12308	9.0
Rogovin5	1072	
Rotem	622	-0.3
Scandia	76.00	-0.7
Shekel	501	0.2
Tnekhz	339	
Unicorn1	100.50	-0.5
Unicorn5	101.00	

Investment Companies

Name	Price	%chg
darban1	419	-0.5
teya	937	-1.0
Ackerl	1511	-1.0
Ackner2	1321	-3.6
AfrIsrC	453	1.3
Ampa	133042	9.7
Arad	3772	-6.0
Atz aC2	178.00	-1.4
Barucn1	1360	-0.2
Barucn5	853	0.5
Clal50	7401	0.5
DanbarC	220	-0.5
Danbar1	3005	-0.2
Edger	130.00	
EdgerC2	145.00	
Elron	3667	
Emeh	182.00	-1.1
Evergr a	1994	
ExpoInC4	214	0.5
Gshalot	7071	-0.3
Hadasa	2236	
Hilan	341	
Hirosh	7809	
Ipcal	939	-0.5
IZOLCB	202	
JoelC1	181.00	
JoelC1A	180.50	0.6
Kardan1	428	
Kinil	241	
Magor1	2188	-3.3
Magor5	1937	-2.0
Oter	9691	-0.5
Pamal.1	827	-0.7
Rest	351	-1.7
Rimo —	208	
RshadDev	1918	-1.0
Sacarla	1571	
SecuroC	124.50	0.4
SecuroW	105.50	-2.3
SPANN/ASP	695	-1.0
TmpC		
TourC1	185.00	
TourShtar	86.50	
Unico	4833	0.2

Oil Exploration

Name	Price	%chg
MGN1	611	2.7

PARALLEL LIST

Trade & Services

Name	Price	%chg
KopelC1	175.50	

Property, Building

Name	Price	%chg
GazelW1	203	-0.5
GzulC1	305	
ScandiaC	106.00	1.0
UnicornG1	171.00	1.2

Industrials

Name	Price	%chg
Adumim	198.00	1.0
Dexior	1811	
Ring1	517	1.8
MsrkC1	152.00	0.5
NecaG1	212	
OsemC	109.50	0.5
OrdaPrnr	1654	
Polygon	438	0.5
PolygonC	186.50	0.5
Tibtveal	176.50	-0.3

Investment Companies

Name	Price	%chg
Ador	549	2.0
mermtron	75.50	1.3
Arkin	1945	4.5
Binyan	36073	
Mirlap	98.00	-0.5
Mofet	480	6.0
Optrex	127.00	
Repkom1	296	-0.3
Yissum	72.50	5.1

Oil Exploration

Name	Price	%chg
Abjac	13.10	
Avner	1.90	5.6
DRODEx1	672	
Naphtha	19.50	

Two-sided trading

Name	AFTERNOON Price	% Change	Volume Shares	MORNING Price	% Change	Volume Shares
electrac	3957	2.5	36450	3899	1.0	6989
nacional	192.5	-5.7	15000	193.5	-5.1	29856
Ackerlin	501	0.7	10500	499	0.4	34934
Alrle 0.	360822	-0.5	15	360822	-0.5	160
Alrlsr	319451	-1.0	100	321871	-0.3	25
Agan	5523		2800	5509	-0.3	1837
Agis	2433		1400	2433		6846
Alliance	935	1.0		935	1.0	4116
Azorim	3807	-0.5		3807	-0.5	4738
ALPMI	12920	-1.0	880	12855	-1.5	862
Baran	2777	-3.0		2777	-3.0	5857
Bezek	857	-1.0	415800	868	0.2	80803
Cables	1725			1725		12439
Clal Ele	38558	1.0	2500	38178		2688
Clal Tzs	915	-0.7	32500	924	0.2	20449
Clal 10	8325	2.0	17500	8325	2.0	18073
Clalins	1645	1.0	80000	1641	0.7	14200
Clalstr 5	1924	-0.5		1924	-0.5	12301
Clinds	1776	-0.5	108000	1785		36610
CoOp	2214	0.2	5400	2208		19659
Danbar 5	2122	-1.7		2122	-1.8	1821
Dead Sea	944	2.2	30800	948	2.7	64033
Degem1	707	2.2	2000	707	2.3	31444
Delek	8891	0.2	1400	8869		3819
DevtMB	19329			19329		1090
Discinv	22712	0.7	7740	22825	1.3	3845
Elbit	16756	3.2	8160	16675	2.7	1560
Elco	13852	0.2	1500	13852	0.3	1598
Elite 5	1258	-1.7	35400	1280		94618
Elron	11597	4.7	8960	11514	4.0	4881
Export	1238	0.2	11200	1235		11888
FeuchtW5	7908	2.7	6300	7970	2.2	1387
Fibi	45120		120	45120		937
Formula	2011	5.7	50400	2016	6.0	20556
FrstInt1	38991			38991		571
FrstInt5	38517		55	38517		3533
Frutarom	928	0.5		928	0.5	21014
General	8692			8692		931
Hapoalm	518	-1.0	616000	523		422973
Hapolm	9163	-1.5	1780	9163	-1.5	2073
IndBldg	367	-0.7	193500	370		155802
Isramco	2.0	2.5		2.0		1539681
IsrCorp1	23954	2.2	7040	23906	2.0	4010
IsrCorp5	21450	3.5	180	21450	3.5	673
IsChem	256	-1.0	592000	259		185402
IDB	1120	0.7	144000	1123	1.0	128331
IDBDev	5633	1.2	11200	5667	1.5	7853
ILDC	930	0.5		930	0.5	16012
JEC	866	-0.2	13600	868		8780
JOEL	91.5	-1.0	20000	91.5	-1.1	246888
Kardan5	413	4.5	291500	395		157726
Kitan	620	-1.5	2500	620	-1.4	4789
Koor	35516	2.5	27230	33435	2.3	11132
Leumi	449	2.0	742500	451	2.5	519080
Lishiz1	214	0.2	24000	213		19545
Makhteah	1973	-0.7	11000	1973	-0.8	67860
Malibu5	817	1.7	2200	815	1.5	9439
Maman	635		7500	635		9534
Mark1	1328	2.5	4800	1328	2.5	11373
Mashov	462	-0.2	25000	463		78991
Mehadrin	8157			8157		866
MeirEzra	729	1.2	1500	731	1.5	5402
Mishkan	34517	0.5	1140	34345		553
Mivtah	1473			1473		5927
Mutlock	1039	2.2	21000	1038	2.8	10709
NasdaqIS	3.7	6.5	3200000	3.7	5.7	2413503
Nice)	3198	-3.0	3500	3198	-3.0	10486
Ocil	9082	1.0	500	9082	1.0	634
Ormat	511	1.0	73500	506		57857
Osem	1915	0.5	30000	1915	0.5	24289
PazoilEx	417			417		11066
Pecker	12423	1.0	1440	12300		1053
Particles	2188	-1.2	2700	2204	-1.0	5045
Petrochem	1718		11000	1718		37025
Piryon	9977	-1.0	5000	10078		3413
PolgasS	198.0	-1.0		198.0	-1.0	74390
Rogosin	2552	0.2	700	2552	0.2	1771
Secom	357	-0.5	30000	336	-0.9	40168
SolarPump	38.0	-8.2	336000	37.3	-8.9	228189
Shilton	12216			12216		1410
Steel	280	-0.5	82500	277	-1.4	19504
SupersB	6872	-0.2	2400	6889		3103
Tamboue	921	0.2	2200	921	0.2	5983
Tempo1	1128			1126		3147
Teva	144570	1.0	1887	144570	1.0	1524
TAT5	177.0	0.7	30000	177.0	0.9	29850
Urdan G.	497		16500	497		10230
Ytong	997	-1.7	38000	995	-2.0	16600

SOURCE: ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK — THE PEOPLE YOU CAN TALK TO.

Malaysia moves to check inflation

KUALA LUMPUR (Reuter) – Malaysia's announcement of a boost in bank statutory reserve requirements (SRR) is a key step in fighting inflation and halting a slide in the currency, economists said yesterday.

Bank Negara Malaysia, the central bank, said on Saturday it was raising the SRR – funds that must be placed interest free with the central bank – to 12.5 percent of a financial institution's total deposits and other liabilities. The rate now stands at 11.5% and the rise takes effect on Thursday.

The SRR was last raised in 1994 by two percentage points.

The economists said the measure itself may have a limited impact, but it showed Malaysia wanted to tackle issues that had made international investors wary of the booming economy.

Malaysia is expected to post economic growth of over 8% for a ninth consecutive year in 1996.

"This does not come as a big surprise... [but shows] they're really serious about this," said Liew Yin Sze, economist with Singapore-based brokerage J.M. Sassoon & Co.

"By a simple administrative decree they will be mopping up two billion ringgit from the market, interest free," he said.

According to the head of research at a foreign investment bank Malaysia is now facing its problems head-on.

"Raising the SRR is the fastest and the most effective way to tighten monetary policy. It is better than raising rates in the interbank market and is a more productive long-term measure," he said.

He said this move would help the ringgit against the US dollar, push up interest rates which will curb consumption and reduce the central bank's open market intervention costs.

"Coming just before Hari Raya (Eid al-Fitr) and Chinese New Year, it will slow down consumption slightly," he added.

Malaysia's money markets are awash with funds due to foreign investment in financial markets and the non-replacement of maturing government securities due to the privatization of state companies.

The ringgit has for the past few months been under attack from speculators, mainly US hedge funds, who view the currency as overvalued due to the country's large current account deficit.

Bank Negara has regularly intervened in the money market to mop up excess liquidity. It has also stepped into the foreign exchange market to sell the US dollar to slow the ringgit's decline.

Both measures have seriously depleted the central bank's reserves, economists said.

Some economists and bank dealers said they feared the market might perceive the latest policy change as a temporary measure.

"The SRR change will only have a short-term impact – that too only on one-month (interbank) deposit rates, which will go up," said the head of foreign exchange dealing at a bank.

She said the ringgit, which had been declining sharply until recently, had already reacted to rumors of the impending change late on Friday in London and New York, rising to 2.5530 per dollar from 2.5575 at close of the local market.

"We believe the monetary policy will start easing off after six months," she said. "Right now, the central bank wants to be seen as doing something to manage the economy better."

But some economists said that if the latest move is seen as temporary, additional measures could be expected from the central bank.

"If more people think the measure is temporary, it is not going to be effective," said the Sassoon economist. "Then there may be a further tightening of monetary policy."

DRIVE CAREFULLY

Becker wins Australian Open

MELBOURNE (AP) – Michael Chang was surprised at how patiently Boris Becker played at the start of their Australian Open final.

That was an unusual tactic for the free-swinging Becker, and it got him off to a 4-0 lead on his way to a 6-2, 6-4, 2-6, 6-2 triumph yesterday.

But over the long run, the German who burst on the scene by becoming the youngest Wimbledon champion ever at age 17 in 1985 has been patiently working his way back up after a five-year drought in Grand Slam tournaments.

His last Grand Slam victory had been in 1991, also in the Australian, when he climbed briefly to the No. 1 ranking. He slipped out of the top 10 in the rankings in 1993. In the Australian Open, he lost in the first round in 1993, skipped 1994 and lost in the first round again in 1995.

Attention here focused on who would emerge No. 1 – Pete Sampras, Andre Agassi or Thomas Muster. Sampras was gone after three rounds and Muster after four. Agassi thus was able to reclaim the top ranking by reaching the semifinals.

Meanwhile, Chang was charging through to the final without losing a set – even against Agassi. Becker was struggling, coming from behind in his first two rounds – both five-set matches – before starting to find his form.

In losing to Chang, Agassi went all-out for winners, often hitting big misses instead.

Yesterday, Becker broke in Chang's first two service games by setting up his points carefully, changing pace and drawing Chang into uncharacteristic errors.

"He was playing some pretty good patient tennis today, the kind of tennis you normally wouldn't see as much from Boris," Chang said.

Acrobatic volleys reminiscent of the young Boris also helped.

"It's a bit frustrating because you have an opportunity to put the ball away and Boris just happens to guess right on the shot and get his racket on it and play a great shot," Chang added.

Becker married in 1993, at his career's low point. He said yesterday that his wife asked for another Grand Slam triumph: "Please do it one more time for me."

"I was patient," he said. "It took me 2½ years to get closer and closer."

He studied why other players were beating him.

"I sort of changed my whole game. I started from the serve, from the second serve, my volley, from my fitness to my ground-strokes. I think I became a complete player who doesn't rely only on his first serve but who changes his tactics sometimes," Becker added.

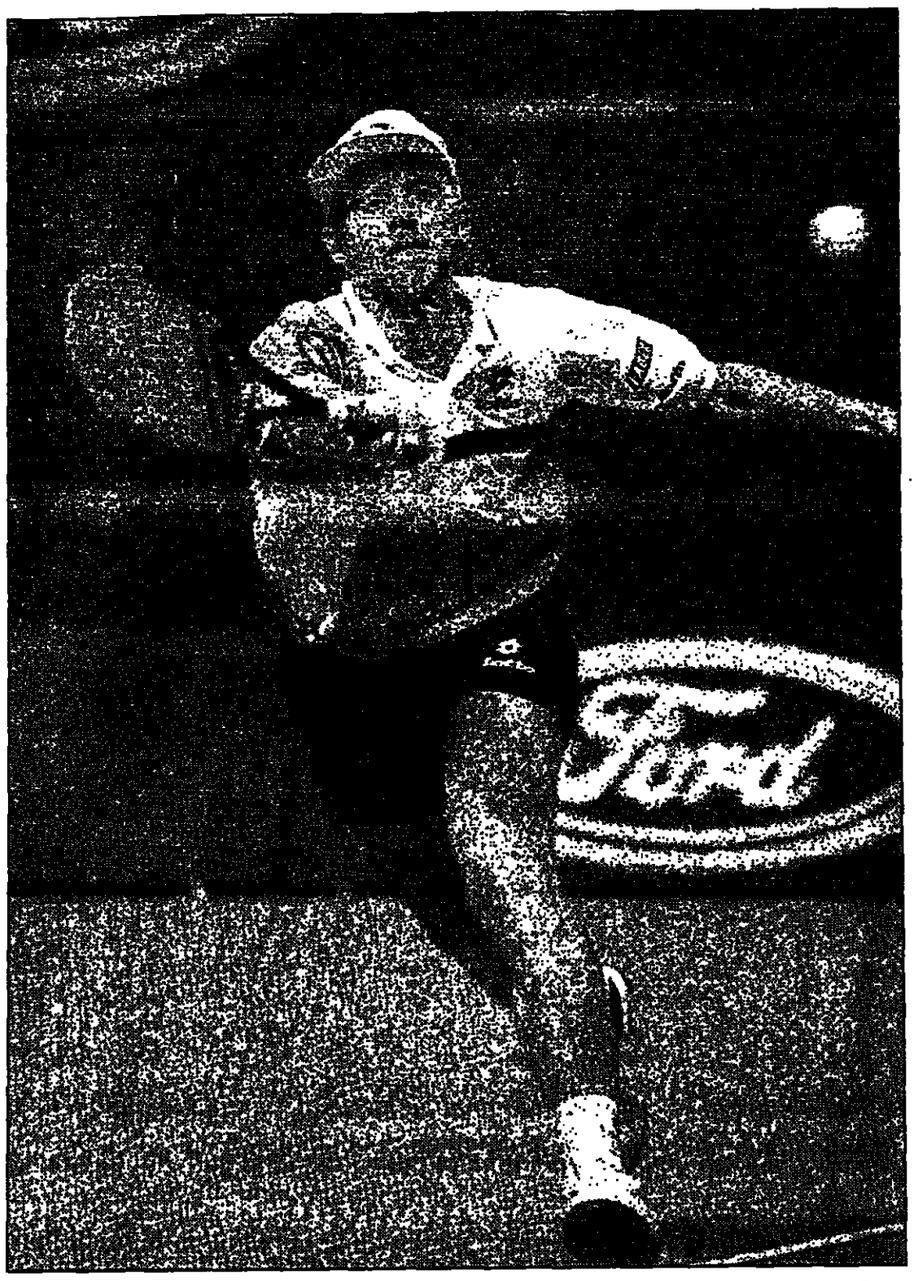
Now, "in the autumn of my career," the 28-year-old Becker said he still can add to his total of six Grand Slam titles. He has his sights set now on the French Open, the only Slam he hasn't won.

And winning all four in one year, something last done by a man when Rod Laver did it in 1969, "is a dream of mine," Becker said.

Chang acknowledged the expectations on him after he won the French Open in 1989, also at age 17. He since has reached only two Grand Slam finals, losing to Muster in the French last year before bowing to Becker yesterday.

The 1989 triumph was "very, very unexpected," he said, and now "sometimes people forget I'm only 23 years old.... I feel like my best tennis is still ahead of me. ... Hopefully things will come my way soon."

The tournament brought no change to the rankings of Becker, who is No. 4, and Chang, who is No. 5. Muster moved to No. 2 behind Agassi. Sampras dropped to third.



WINNING STYLE – Boris Becker wears down Michael Chang en route to the Australian Open title yesterday. (AP)

Jamchee No. 1 scorer

Mac. Jerusalem players go on strike

ELI GRONER

MACCABI Jerusalem decided not to make the trip up north, and lost. Hapoel Safed decided to make the journey down south, and won. Herzliya pulled out a last second victory over Holon while Doron Jamchee moved past Mickey Berkovitz as the league's all-time leading scorer. Just another week in the National Basketball League.

Galil Elyon 113, Mac. Jerusalem 81

It was a sad night in the annals of the National Basketball League as theMaccabi Jerusalem organization struck over a lack of funding as none of the players on the 12 man roster made the trip up north to Kfar Bloom.

Galil coach David Blan, in a show of class, decided not to give his starters extensive playing time in an effort not to embarrass the Jerusalem youth team that played on the club's behalf.

An interesting result of the strike was that for the first time in recent memory, ten native Israelis started a game. One of those sabras, Jerusalem's Shahar Amon, proved to be a lone bright light in an otherwise dreary evening by scoring 34 points and establishing himself as a name to watch out for in the near future.

Hapoel Safed 93, Hapoel Eilat 80

Hapoel Safed, another team mired in financial troubles, made the trip down south after the Safed Municipality funneled NIS 1 million to the club yesterday afternoon. It proved to be a worthwhile journey as Safed improved their record to 7-5 and kept their upper-playoff hopes alive.

Safed jumper out to a 22-6 lead and forced Eilat to play comeback the rest of the way. Eilat, led by J.J. Eubanks and Rotem Ehrlich clawed their way back into the game and closed the gap to 41-37 at the half.

The game remained close throughout most of the second half, but every time that it appeared that Eilat had a chance of taking the lead, Safed superstar Melvin Neubern seemed to retaliate with either a clutch basket or a big assist to extend the lead. Neubern proved to be too much, especially in the second half when he scored 24 of his 33 points as Safed pulled it out in the end. Neubern was ably assisted by Barak Peleg (13 points) who also contributed two clutch baskets late in the second half.

Bnei Herzliya 78, Hapoel Holon 77

Herzliya proved to be the venue of the only exciting game of the night, as Viki Revach missed a short jumper at the end of the game allowing Bnei Herzliya to escape with the victory.

The game was tight throughout the first half as David Thirdkill and Derrick Hamilton paced the way for their respective clubs.

Herzliya's Lior Arditti and John Hudson, in an attempt to offset the absence of their leading scorer Amir Katz (out with injury) asserted themselves offensively in the second half, enabling Herzliya to jump out to a 68-57 lead with under seven minutes remaining. It was then that Herzliya point guard, Ami Nawi picked up his fourth foul.

Holon coach Hanoch Mintz made a brilliant tactical move by shifting his top offensive threat, Milt Wagner, to the PG position opposite Nawi. Wagner abused Nawi until Herzliya coach Muli Katzurin inserted Koren Amisha opposite Wagner. The move was to no avail, however, as Holon rode its momentum to a 74-73 lead with less than three minutes to play.

Herzliya came right back with a Hudson slam to take back the lead, 75-74. Herzliya maintained its one point margin until Steve Malovic turned the ball over with 30 seconds to go, allowing Holon to take the games last shot. However, Revach couldn't connect on his medium-range jump shot and Herzliya held on. Arditti had 24 points while Hudson and Thirdkill chipped in 19 and 17, respectively. Hamilton had 17 for Holon.

Maccabi TA 91, Maccabi RG 82

Doron Jamchee opened the game up with a three point shot, making him the league's all-time leading scorer with 8,237 points. Jamchee moved past Mickey Berkovitz as the most prolific scorer in National Basketball League history. Jamchee finished with 27 points to go along with Tom Chambers 29 in a game that wasn't as close as the score indicated.

Mac. R. Lezion 109, Hapoel Gvat 83

Brian Oliver poured in 25 points and James Gully added 22 as Rishon did whatever they wanted en route to destroying Gvat who were playing without their best player, Derrick Gervin. Stevie Thompson had 29 for the losers.

National Basketball League

	W	L	Pts
Maccabi Tel Aviv	11	1	23
Hapoel Jerusalem	10	1	21
Hapoel Galil Elyon	8	4	20
Bnei Herzliya	8	4	20
Maccabi Rishon	8	4	20
Hapoel Safed	7	5	19
Hapoel Holon	5	7	17
Hapoel Eilat	4	8	16
Maccabi Jerusalem	3	9	15
Hapoel Tel Aviv	3	8	14
Hapoel Gvat	2	10	14
Maccabi Ramat Gan	2	10	14

Arad claims bronze

JUDOKA Yael Arad picked up a bronze medal in her first tournament of the year on Saturday. Fighting in the 61 kilogram weight group in the Moscow Open Championships, Arad took third place by beating the Barcelona Olympic champion in the 56 kg class, Miriam Blasco from Spain.

HEATHER CHAIT

Arad won her first fight against an opponent from the Czech Republic and then lost by ippon to a Russian judoka. She won her last two fights against a Polish opponent and then Blasco to collect the bronze medal.

Arad, together with her coach Dani Leopold and Einat Yaron arrived in Russia after a 22-hour flight from their training camp in Austria and Arad managed to grab just four hours sleep before appearing for her fight.

Villa makes it to final 16

LONDON (Reuter) – A 63rd minute penalty from Dwight Yorke gave Aston Villa a 1-0 win at First Division Sheffield United yesterday and a place in the fifth round of the F.A. Cup.

After heavy snowfalls wiped out 11 of Saturday's 14 scheduled ties, and with two of the three matches that were played ending in draws, Manchester United is the only other team assured of a place in the last 16.

Queens Park Rangers faces Chelsea in the other tie, scheduled for tonight.

Yorke, who scored the winner when Villa beat Tottenham 2-1 in the league last week, coolly stroked the ball over United goalkeeper Alan Kelly to give Villa victory. The spot-kick was awarded after Villa's Serbian international striker Savo Milosevic was fouled.

Sheffield United, the bottom team in the First Division, who knocked out Arsenal in the third round, made little impression on the visitors who had plenty of chances to win by an even bigger margin.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Karl joins Jackson as All-Star coach

George Karl of the Seattle SuperSonics was named on Saturday as the head coach of the Western Conference team for the NBA All-Star Game next month in San Antonio.

Chicago coach Phil Jackson, had already clinched the job of coaching the East team.The lineups for the All-Star game are, for the Eastern Conference squad: Grant Hill, Michael Jordan, Scottie Pippen, Shaquille O'Neal, Anfernee Hardaway. For the Western Conference, the starters are Hakeem Olajuwon, Clyde Drexler, Charles Barkley, Shawn Kemp, and Jason Kidd.

The 45th annual NBA All-Star Game will be played at the Alamodome on February 11. *Reuter*

Report: Magic will play tomorrow

Magic Johnson reportedly has signed a contract with the Los Angeles Lakers and will return to the team tomorrow night in a home game against Golden State.

NBC-TV reported yesterday that Johnson's comeback would be officially announced today at a news conference in Los Angeles. The network cited unidentified sources in the league.

The Lakers have worked out a way for Johnson to sell his 5 percent ownership of the team to make his comeback, the network said.

Lakers spokesman John Black declined to comment on the report.

The Los Angeles Times has reported that Johnson had agreed to a contract that would pay him $2.5 million for the rest of the season.

Saturday's NBA results: New York 104, Minnesota 95; L.A. Lakers 100, New Jersey 98; Washington 102, Vancouver 77; Charlotte 110, Philadelphia 105; Miami 102, Cleveland 85; Indiana 102, Orlando 79; Houston 105, Detroit 85; Portland 112, Dallas 103; Denver 92, Toronto 83; Utah 108, Golden State 91. *AP*

NHL – Saturday's results

Montreal 4, Winnipeg 1; N.Y. Rangers 5, Boston 3; Pittsburgh 7, Philadelphia 4; Detroit 5, Chicago 5 (tie); St. Louis 2, Tampa Bay 1; Colorado 4, San Jose 3 (OT); Los Angeles 5, Anaheim 4; New Jersey 4, Hartford 4 (tie); Toronto 2, Ottawa 2 (tie); Florida 6, Buffalo 3; Vancouver 6, N.Y. Islanders 3. *AP*

Kings trade Rick Tocchet to Bruins

The Los Angeles Kings traded right wing Rick Tocchet to the Boston Bruins for left wing Kevin Stevens on Thursday in an exchange of former teammates on the 1992 Stanley Cup-winning Pittsburgh Penguins. *Reuter*

Hooper pulls out of Windies squad

Carl Hooper has withdrawn from the West Indies World Cup squad, citing "personal and health reasons," the West Indies Cricket Board of Control (WICBC) said.

THE WICBC named fast bowler Cameron Cuffy to replace him in the 14-man squad announced on Tuesday for the World Cup in India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka starting on February 14. *Reuter*

Former Clemson coach Howard dies

Frank Howard, a Hall of Fame football coach whose job description in Clemson's media guide was simply "Legend," died last week of congestive heart failure. He was 86.

He signed a one-year contract in 1940 to coach the Tigers, but lost the document and never signed another. He was 165-118-12 in 30 seasons at the school, winning six Atlantic Coast Conference titles and two Southern Conference championships. He served as athletic director from 1969 to 1971. *AP*

George sets pole vault record

Australian Emma George set a new world women's pole vault record of 4.41 meters yesterday,Australian Grand Prix athletics series. *Reuter*

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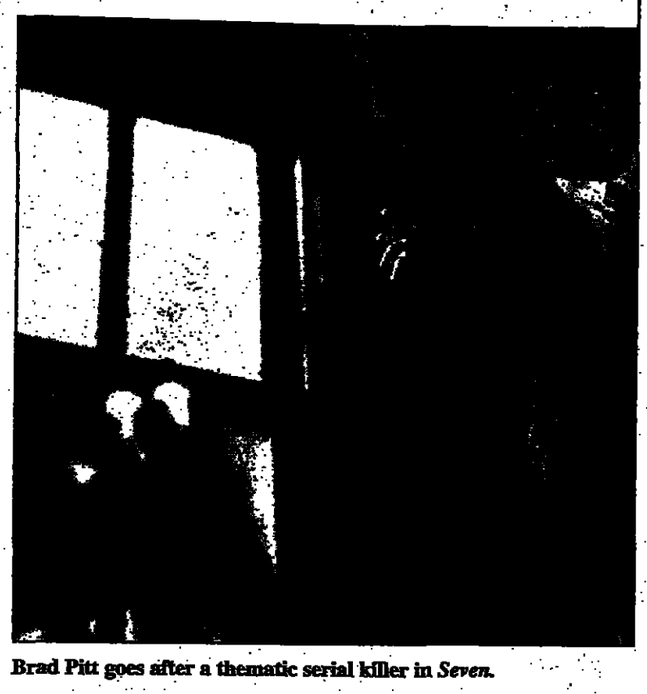
CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

THE winners of this year's Francois Shapira Competition for Young Musicians will be decided today at the Tel Aviv Museum. At 5 p.m. the final stage of the percussion-/woodwinds division takes place featuring flutist Eyal Ein Habar, clarinetist Ron Zelka and Ziv Eytan playing marimba.

At 7 p.m. the strings division final stage features violinists Alexander Pablovsky and Natalia Gandelsman and cellist Gabi Lipkind. Each finalist performs a concerto for his instrument, accompanied by piano.

The Haifa Symphony Orchestra performs King David's Violin, a special family concert focusing on music related to Jerusalem, at 5 today at the Haifa Auditorium.



Brad Pitt goes after a thematic serial killer in *Seven*.

TELEVISION

DAVID ISAACSON

WHILE conventional wisdom holds *Citizen Kane* to be the greatest movie ever made, some cineastes prefer Welles's *A Touch of Evil*. The opening shot, surely one of the most brilliant in film history, sets the scene for a dark, atmospheric tale of police corruption on the Mexican border. One of Hollywood's most menacing off-beat thrillers, it features an outstanding score by Henry Mancini and excellent performances by Welles himself, Janet Leigh and, in a small but significant role, Marlene Dietrich. Charlton Heston is almost unrecognizable in this 1958 classic, but Welles's virtuosity is unmistakable. Don't miss it tonight on Second Showing at 10.

FILM

ADINA HOFFMAN

**** A MAN OF NO IMPORTANCE – It's 1963 in Dublin, and every day Alfie, a cheerful bus conductor with a carnation in his lapel and a book under his arm, regales his regular passengers with poetry recitations. As Alfie sets out to direct a production of his dream play, Oscar Wilde's *Salomé*, the movie's tone gradually ripens. By the time we recognize the complex tragedy at hand, we've let down our guard: the pain inherent in Alfie's situation dawns on us with twice the force because we didn't notice it before. Albert Finney is tremendous in the lead – at once self-effacing and fiery. (English dialogue, Hebrew subtitles. Not recommended for children.)

*** SEVEN – In David Fincher's gruesome but engaging psychological thriller, a serial killer commits one grisly murder for each of the Seven Deadly Sins. Despite the atrocities the shadowy slaughterer commits (squeamish viewers are warned to steer clear), the action focuses mostly on character and setting.

These are, respectively, two mismatched police detectives – regal Morgan Freeman and cocky Brad Pitt – and an unspecified, always-rainy American city, well along in its decay. The film is entertaining in a trashy, morbid way, although by the time it winds round to its inevitable surprise ending, the Seven-Sin-Plan also comes to seem a little cynical. (English dialogue, Hebrew subtitles. Children under 17 not admitted without an adult; ID will be checked.)



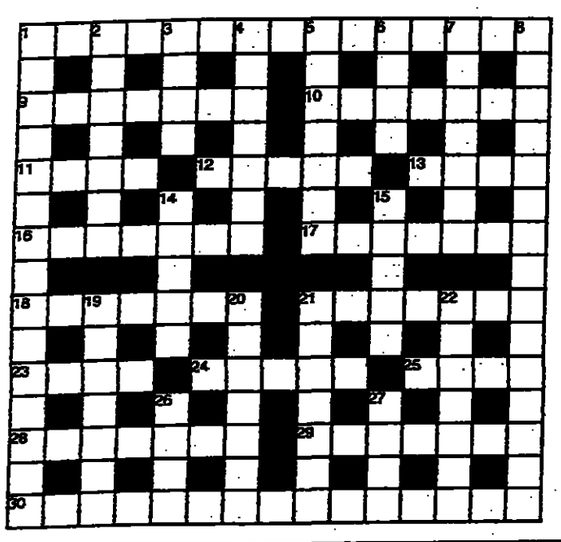
CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Nearest one can come for a close-up shot (5-5,5)
9 Option to exchange the seal fur (7)
10 Rich spa isn't working (4,3)
11 Probability of inequality (4)
12 Lucky, but likely to become stuck perhaps (5)
13 Traveller needs it as returning after six (4)
16 Coming from gallery with abnormal sensitivity (7)
17 Denial that a style related to a Biblical time (7)
18 Place a heavy burden on reporters after the operation (7)
21 One quit bad coaching for a dish of dumplings (7)
23 Pass the fish (4)
24 Haggard one in France trapped by a gun (5)
25 Tempo of piano expert (4)
28 One more, different one (7)
29 Old boy's seen and heard to be blue (7)
30 One's certain to be without it when fully enlightened (1,6,2,1,5)

DOWN

1 A Roman who is not acceptable (7,3,5)
2 He doesn't believe I name the revolutionary leader (7)
3 Thanks Kelvin for a piece of work (4)
4 Soothe infant (not first-born) with a song (7)
5 Additional officer, an employee of the press (7)
6 Some pressure Lydia exerted on trust (4)
7 The lion represented on a stone artefact (7)
8 Voters' liberation? (15)
14 Welcome cry (5)
15 Hard getting a number one in Vietnam (5)
19 Penny and I rob another church of bagpipe music! (7)
20 Dispute after dispute for the winger (7)
21 Exploded. That's bad (4,3)
22 Hat, cheap sort with gold finish (7)
26 Large number possessed land (4)
27 Employed by someone else first (4)



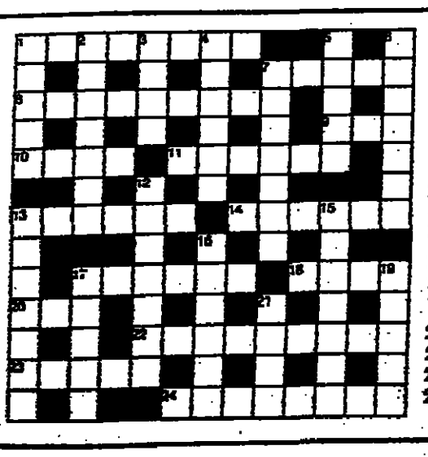
SOLUTIONS

SCRAPERS POLISH
UEO NMA
CAPTIOUS DAMPEN
KONTHGAD
EHRATA COTERIES
RTERNRO
GREATER TEAM
CSSTSIDE
OVER PRATING
MESAYTMS
PATIENCE DEPOSE
OHVEPDT
SPIDER TENEMENT
ENR ASRL
DOGGER DISTANCE

Yesterday's Quick Solution

ACROSS: 1 Silly, 4 Aisles, 9 Remorse, 10 Sabot, 11 Kind, 12 Shatter, 13 Apt, 14 Dawn, 16 Core, 18 See, 20 Offbeat, 21 Name, 24 Twist, 25 Uniform, 26 Retort, 27 Eaten.

DOWN: 1 Strike, 2 Lemon, 3 Yarn, 5 Instance, 6 Lobster, 7 Satyrs, 8 Least, 13 Anteater, 15 Afflict, 17 Loiter, 18 Stout, 19 Seamen, 22 Aloft, 23 Like.



QUICK CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Linford ——, athlete (8)
7 Lytham St —— (5)
8 Profited (9)
9 Dark-red resin (3)
10 Hood (4)
11 American cat (6)
13 Egg yolk (6)
14 Motionless (6)
17 Aggregating (6)
18 Russian emperor (4)
20 Devout woman (3)
22 Complain (4,1,4)
23 Silk voile (5)
24 Visionary speculation (8)

DOWN

1 3-D (5)
2 Revival (7)
3 Remove coarseness (4)
4 Complete (6)
5 Rested on knees (5)
6 Supernatural (7)
7 Flatter (7)
12 Censure (7)
13 Gaping (7)
15 Vaulted roof (7)
16 Crept (6)
17 Custard-apple genus (5)
19 Unsafe (5)
21 Gambling game (4)

TELEVISION

■ CHANNEL 1

6:30 News 6:45 Exercise Hour 7:00 Good Morning Israel

■ EDUCATIONAL TV

8:00 Jewish Mysticism 8:30 Reading comprehension 8:45 Nature 9:10 Music 9:25 Young children's programs 10:00 On Second Thoughts – Medication 10:30 Science and technology 10:50 English 11:10 History 11:40 English 12:05 Geography 12:25 Society 12:45 Tolerance 13:00 Documentary 13:15 Two Chopin nocturnes, Op. 62 13:30 Animal Tales 13:45 Kitty Kat and Hummy 14:00 Peter Pan 14:20 Mother Goose 15:00 Autoto

■ CHANNEL 1

15:30 Land Without Time – animated series based on Richard Scary's books 15:55 Who's Afraid of the Dark? 16:20 Service Not Included – drama 17:00 A New Evening 17:35 Zaptot to Hosting – with young artists and performers 18:15 News in English
ARABIC PROGRAMS
18:30 Sport magazine 19:00 News in Arabic
HEBREW PROGRAMS
19:30 Every Evening with Merav Michaeli 20:00 News 20:45 Popolitica 22:00 Sanderson – comedy 23:00 Backtrack – with Ehud Manor 23:30 News magazine 00:00 Verse of the Day

■ CHANNEL 2

13:00 Talking About It – Danny Roup talks to people with interesting stories 14:00 Bay City – Australian children's drama 14:30 Tick Tack 15:00 Pinocchio – with Hebrew dubbing 15:30 Dreams with Uzi Hitman 16:00 The Bold and the Beautiful 17:00 News magazine with Rafi Reshef 17:30 A Matter of Time – drama for youth 18:00 Santa Barbara – soap opera 19:00 Baywatch 20:00 News 20:30 It's a Deal – game show 21:05 Zehu Zeh – comedy 21:40 Dan Shilon live 23:15 Sirens – police drama series 00:00 News 00:05 Sirens (continued) 00:20 Machos – dating game 00:45 Starsky and Hutch – police series 01:35 Israeli songs 02:00 Poem of the Day

■ JORDAN TV

14:00 Shelley Duvall's Bedtime Stories – cartoon 14:30 Richie Rich – cartoon 15:00 Playabout 15:15 Bustin' Loose – comedy 15:40 Animals of the Mediterranean – documentary 16:00 Voyagers 17:00 French Programs 19:30 News Headlines 19:35 McHale's Navy – comedy 20:00 Invention 20:25 Hawaii Five-0 21:10 Russia – The Missing Years 22:00 News in English 22:25 Anna – drama 23:10 Taurus Rising – drama series 00:00 Ellen – comedy

■ MIDDLE EAST TV

14:00 The 700 Club 14:55 Film 16:30 Moomins 16:55 Heathcliff 17:20 Inspector Gadget 17:45 Superbook 18:10 Snowy River 19:10 Magnum P.I. 20:00 World News Tonight (Arabic) 20:30 CNN Headline News 21:00 The Bill Cosby Show 21:30 Diagnosis Murder 22:20 A Quest 23:10 700 Club 00:00 Special Program

WHERE TO GO

Notices in this feature are charged at NIS28.08 per line, including VAT. Insertion every day of the month costs NIS520.65 per line, including VAT, per month.

JERUSALEM
Conducted Tours
HEBREW UNIVERSITY. Tours of the Mount Scopus campus, in English, daily Sun.-Thur., 11 a.m. from Bronfman Reception Centre, Sherman Administration Bldg. Buses 4a, 9, 23, 26, 28. For info, call 882819.
HADASSAH. Visit the Hadassah installations, Chagall Windows. Tel. 02-416333, 02-776271.

TEL AVIV
Museums
TEL AVIV MUSEUM OF ART. Eight in November Gliksberg, Gross, Reisman, Shelesnyak, Almog, Beresi, Gal, DavidVan Dyck and his AgePeter Brandes Isaac – Paintings, Prints, Ceramic SculpturesYaacov Dorchin Blocked WellThe Museum Collections.
HELENA RUBINSTEIN PAVILION FOR CONTEMPORARY ART. New Art in Tel Aviv Collections. Hours: Weekdays 10:00 a.m.-6 p.m. Tue., 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Fri., Sat., 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Art Education Center, closed for renovations, Tel. 6919155/6/7.WIZO. To visit our projects call Tel Aviv 6923819; Jerusalem 256060; Haifa 388817.

HAIFA
WHAT'S ON IN HAIFA, dial 04-374253.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE

EMERGENCY PHARMACIES

Jerusalem: Kupat Holim Clalit, Straus A, 3 Avigdori, 706660; Batsam, Salah e-Din, 272315; Shusfat, Shusfat Road, 810108; Dar Aldawa, Herod's Gate, 282058.
Tel Aviv: Bavli, 1 Uziel cnr Toledano, 604-0562; Kupat Holim Clalit, 7-9 Amsterdam, 523-2383. Till 3 a.m. Tuesday: Ben-Yehuda, 142 Ben-Yehuda, 522-3535. Till midnight: Superpharm Ramat Aviv, 40 Einstein, 641-3730.
Ra'anana-Kfar Sava: Hadarim, Yoseftal, Kfar Sava, 952520.
Netanya: Kupat Holim Clalit, (till midnight) 8 Raziel, 603549; (after midnight) 31 Brodetzky, 628121.
Krayot area: Hyperpharm Ata, 53 Sd. Ha'atzmaut, Kiryat Ata, 844-8132.
Haifa: Hanassi-Denya, 99 Abba Khoushy, 834-1113.
Herzliya: Clal Pharm, Beit Merkazim, 6 Masidi (cnr. Sderot Hagalim), Herzliya Pituah, 558472, 558407. Open 9 a.m. to midnight.
Upper Nazareth: Clal Pharm, Lev Ha'ir Mall, 570468. Open 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.

DUTY HOSPITALS

Jerusalem: Hadassah Ein Kerem (Internal, surgery, orthopedics, ENT); Misgav Ladach (obstetrics); Bikur Holim (pediatrics); Shaare Zedek (ophthalmology).
Tel Aviv: Tel Aviv Medical Center (pediatrics), Ichilov (internal, surgery).
Netanya: Laniado.

POLICE 100
FIRE 102
FIRST AID 101
Magen David Adom
In emergencies dial 101 (Hebrew) or 911 (English) in most parts of the country. In addition:

Ashdod* 551333	Kfar Sava* 902222
Ashkelon 551332	Naharlya* 912333
Beersheba* 274767	Netanya* 604444
Beit Shemesh 523133	Petah Tikva* 9311111
Dan Region* 5793333	Rehovot* 451333
Eilat* 352444	Rishon* 9542333
Haifa* 8512233	Safed 920333
Jerusalem* 523133	Tel Aviv* 5460111
Karmiel* 9985444	Tiberias* 792444

* Mobile Intensive Care Unit (MICU) service in the area, around the clock.
Medical help for tourists (in English) 177-022-9110
The National Poison Control Center at Rambam Hospital 04-8529205, for emergency calls 24 hours a day, for information in case of poisoning.
Eran – Emotional First Aid. Jerusalem 610303, Tel Aviv 5461111 (children/youth 5961113), Haifa 8672222/3, Beersheba 281128, Netanya 625110, Karmiel 9988410, Kfar Sava 7674555, Hadera 348789.
Wizo hotlines for battered women 02-6514111, 03-5461133 (also in Russian), 07-376310, 08-550506 (also in Amharic).
Rape Crisis Center (24 hours), Tel Aviv 5234819, 5449191 (men). Jerusalem 255558, Haifa 8660111, Eilat 31977.
Hadassah Medical Organization – Israel Cancer Association telephone support service 02-247676.

CABLE

■ FAMILY CHANNEL (3)

8:00 Falcon Crest 9:00 One Life to Live 9:45 The Young and the Restless 10:30 Second Time Around 10:55 Daddy's Girls 11:25 Celeste 12:10 Neighbors 12:35 Perry Mason 13:30 Starting at 1:30 14:05 The Trials of Rosie O'Neill 14:55 Falcon Crest 15:45 ENG 16:45 Neighbors 17:10 Antonella 18:00 One Life to Live 18:45 The Young and The Restless 19:30 Local broadcast 20:00 Celeste 20:50 Hanging with Mr. Cooper 21:15 The Nanny 21:40 Mad About You 22:05 Frasier 22:30 Muddling Through 23:20 Mad About You 23:45 Sisters 00:35 St. Elsewhere 1:25 Knots Landing

■ MOVIE CHANNEL (4)

10:30 Don't Tell Mom the Babysitter's Dead (1991) – *Home Alone*-type comedy starring Christina Applegate (rpt) 12:15 The Man with the Golden Arm (1955) – Otto Preminger directs Frank Sinatra in this drama about an ex-con trying to turn over a new leaf (rpt) 14:10 Mad Ads 14:45 Baby of the Bride (1991) – drama about a fortysomething woman who decides to have a baby (rpt) 16:20 Micha (1992) – Russian coming-of-age drama about a young boy living alone with his mother after his father has escaped to Germany (88 mins) 17:50 Memphis (1992) – In the '50s three drifters kidnap the grandson of a wealthy black industrialist (rpt) 19:25 Bullseye (1990) – action comedy starring Michael Caine and Roger Moore as two diamond thieves who pretend to be scientists selling secrets. Directed by Michael Winner (88 mins) 21:00 House of Cards (1993) – Kathleen Turner plays a mother who returns with her two children to the US after her husband is killed in Mexico. Her six-year-old daughter withdraws into herself and psychiatrist Tommy Lee Jones diagnoses autism. Directed by Michael Lessac (107 mins) 22:50 Final Appeal (1993) – courtroom drama about a battered wife who kills her husband and says it was in self-defense. Starring JoBeth Williams and Brian Dennehy. Directed by Eric Teale (92 mins) 00:25 The Naked Target – Anthony Perkins stars in this comedy about a nerd carrying classified information (rpt) 2:05 E' la Tendresse... Bordel (1979) – French satire about the relationships between three couples (rpt)

■ CHILDREN (6)

6:30 Cartoons 8:00 Surprise Garden 8:35 The Magical World of Dinosaurs 9:00 White Fang 9:40 Silver Hawks 10:10 Punky Brewster 10:45 Lois and Clark 11:40 Loony Toons 12:00 Saved by the Bell 12:30 Hugo 13:00 Surprise Garden 13:35 Alvin and the Chipmunks 14:00 Detective Boogie 14:35 Once Upon a Time 15:10 Silver Hawks 15:40 Family Ties 16:15 Black Stallion 16:35 Ocean Girl 17:10 Loony Toons 17:30 Saved by the Bell 18:00 Hugo 18:35 White Fang 19:00 The Magical World of Dinosaurs 19:30 Three's Company 20:00 Married with Children 20:25 Family Ties 20:50 Mork and Mindy 21:20 Cheers

■ SECOND SHOWING (6)

22:00 A Touch of Evil (1958) – Atmospheric suspense drama written anddirected by Orson Welles. A policeman honeymooning in a Mexican border town clashes with the local police chief over a murder. Starring Welles, Charlton Heston, Janet Leigh and Marlene Dietrich (108 mins) 23:55 All Night Long (1961) – A jazz trumpeter tries to strangle his wife at an all-night party because of a rumor put about by a jealous rival. Excellent jazz soundtrack. Starring Patrick McGoohan and Richard Attenborough. Directed by Basil Dearden (87 mins)

■ DISCOVERY (8)

6:00 Open University: Management, Marketing and Economics 12:00 Human Nature 13:00 Beyond 2000 14:00 Open University 16:00 Human Nature 17:00 Beyond 2000 18:00 Open University 20:00 In Search of Our Ancestors 21:00 China: Unleashing the Dragon 22:00 Gene Hunters 23:00 In Search of Our Ancestors 23:50 Open University

■ ITV 3 (33)

17:00 Cartoons 17:30 Migrating Birds 18:30 Panorama with Zaidan Atshe 19:00 News in Arabic 19:30 Songs We Loved 20:00 Mabat News 20:45 The Diviners (1992) – the story of an author who lost her parents at a young age and spent the rest of her life trying to understand her loss (112 mins) 22:40 The Sexual Imperative 00:00 Closedown

■ ETV 2 (23)

15:30 Hey Dad 16:00 Math enrichment 17:00 At the Bottom of the Sea With Delphi 17:30 Time Out 18:00 The Herodian Kingdom, Between East and West 18:30 Family Relations 19:00 Basic Arabic 19:30 Before Induction – program about army service 20:00 A New Evening (with Russian subtitles) 20:30 The Agatha Christie Hour 21:30 Korea – The Unknown War 22:30 Spirited Talks

■ SUPER CHANNEL

6:00 The Selina Scott Show 7:00 ITN World News 7:15 NBC News 7:30 Steals and Deals 8:00 The Today Show 10:00 Super Shop 11:00 European Money Wheel 15:30 The Squawk Box 17:00 US Money Wheel 18:30 FT Business Tonight 19:00 ITN News 19:30 Frost's Century 20:30 The Selina Scott Show 21:30 Frontal 22:30 ITN News 23:00 Supersport 00:00 Best of the Tonight Show 1:00 Late Night with Conan O'Brien

■ STAR PLUS

6:00 Beverly Hillbillies 6:30 Look and Cook 7:00 Video Fashion Monthly 7:30 Gabrielle 8:30 Santa Barbara 9:30 The Bold and the Beautiful 10:00 Oprah Winfrey 11:00 Remington Steele 12:00 Look and Cook 12:30 Videofashion News 13:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles 13:30 Small Wonder 14:00 The Black Stallion 14:30 Batman 15:00 Home and Away 15:30 Entertainment Tonight 16:00 M*A*S*H 16:30 Inspector Morse Mystery Movies: Deadly Slumber 18:30 The Bold and the Beautiful 19:00 Santa Barbara 20:00 Hard Copy Star Trek 20:30 Hearts Afire 21:00 Grace Under Fire 21:30 Barnaby Jones 22:30 Entertainment Tonight 23:00 Oprah Winfrey 00:00 Movie TV 00:30 Home and Away 1:00 The Sullivans

■ CHANNEL 5

6:30 Bodies in motion 7:00 30th Superbowl: Dallas Cowboys vs Pittsburgh Steelers 15:00 30th Superbowl: Dallas Cowboys vs Pittsburgh Steelers 18:30 NBA: Chicago vs Phoenix 20:15 Live national league basketball: Hapoel Jerusalem vs Hapoel TA 22:30 Premier league soccer roundup 23:30 Gold Cup soccer final

■ EUROSPORT

9:30 Figure skating 11:00 Alpine skiing 13:00 Boxing 14:00 Motorsport magazine 15:00 African Nations' Cup soccer: quarter final 16:30 African Nations' Cup soccer: quarter final 18:00 Olympic magazine 18:30 Tractor towing 19:30 Heavyweight boxing 20:30 Eurogoals 21:00 Speed world 23:00 Pro-wrestling 23:30 Athletics 00:00 Eurogoals 1:00 Golf 2:00 Cars on ice

■ PRIME SPORTS

6:00 Australian Open tennis highlights 7:00 International sports magazine 8:00 Rugby 9:30 Asian soccer show 10:30 Grand Slam tennis 12:30 Baseball magazine 13:00 Australian Open tennis men's final 16:00 Superbowl: Dallas Cowboys vs Pittsburg 21:00 Golf from Singapore 23:00 Asian sports show 00:00 WWF 1:00 Australian Open tennis men's final

■ BBC WORLD

News on the hour 6:00 BBC Newsday 6:05 The Money Programme 10:15 The Money Programme 11:30 Food and Drink 14:05 Assignment 15:15 World Business Report 16:25 This Multi-Media Business 17:15 The Money Programme 18:30 Time Out: The Clothes Show 19:30 Tomorrow's World 22:05 The Money Programme 23:30 Holiday 00:00 BBC World News and Business Report

■ CNN INTERNATIONAL

News throughout the day 6:30 Showbiz This Week 8:30 Global View 9:30 Diplomatic License 11:30 CNN Newsroom 12:30 Headline News 13:00 Business Day 14:00 Asia News 14:30 World Sport 15:00 Asia News 15:30 Business Asia 16:00 Larry King Live 17:30 Sport 18:30 Business Asia 21:00 World Business Today 21:30 World News 22:00 Larry King Live 00:00 World Business Today 00:30 Sport

RADIO

■ VOICE OF MUSIC

6:06 Morning Concert 9:05 Krommer: Concerto in E flat for 2 clarinets and orch; Nielsen: Wind quintet op 43 (Vienna-Berlin Erls); Weill: Symphony no 2; September Song; contemporary works 12:00 Light Classical – excerpts from operas by Mozart, Rossini, Verdi, Delibes, Bizet, Puccini 13:00 Arditti Quartet – transcriptions by Schoenberg of works by Mahler, Busoni, Strauss, and Schoenberg 14:06 Encore 15:00 Cycle of Works – Beethoven's piano sonatas 16:00 Early music 17:00 Etnahta – live broadcast from Henry Crown Auditorium, Jerusalem. Uri Shoham, Erella Talmi, Yossi Arnheim, Lior Eitan (flutes), Iris Ringer (recorder). Mozart: Marriage of Figaro overture (arr. H. Cohen); Beethoven: 3 pieces for mechanical clock arr for 4 flutes; Bizet: 2 pieces from Carmen arr for 4 flutes; J. Horowitz: Jazz suite for 4 flutes 19:00 Rainbow of Sounds 20:05 Beethoven: Sextet in E flat for winds op 71 (London Wind Erls); Lalo: Symphonie espagnole 21:00 A Matter of Agreement 23:00 Just Jazz

CINEMA

JERUSALEM
CINEMATHEQUE Waterworld 5 ★ The Shop Around the Corner 7:15 ★ Vanya on 42nd Street 9:30 ★ Rockicinema: Joe Cocker 9 G.G. Gil. Jerusalem Mall (Malha) ☎ 788448 White Night American President JadeClueless Something to Talk About Fair Game SuddenDeath 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 ★ Golden Eye 4:30, 7, 9:45 **JERUSALEM THEATER** A Man of No Importance Lisbon Story 7, 9:30 **RAV CHEN 1-7** ☎ 792799 Credit Card Reservations☎ 794477 Rav-Mecher Building, 19 Ha'oman St., Talpiot White Men's BurdenThe Usual Suspects 5, 7:30, 9:45 ★ Dangerous Minds Father of the Bride II 5, 7:30, 9:45 ★ Jefferson in Paris 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 ★ Il Postino 5, 7:30 ★ Seven 4:30, 7:15, 9:45 ★ Lovesick on Nana Street 9:45
TEL AVIV
CINEMATHEQUE On the Edge 5, 7:30, 10 ★ Ildru 5 ★ Orlando 9:30 DIZENGOFF A Man of No Importance 11 a.m., 1, 3, 5, 7:45, 10 ★ Priest 11 a.m., 3, 7:45 ★ Fresh 1, 5, 10 ★ Lisbon Story 11 a.m., 1, 3, 5, 7:45, 10 DRIVE IN While You Were Sleeping 10 ★ Sex Film 12 midnight GAN HA'IR ☎ 5279215 Priscilla 2:30, 5, 7:30, 9:45 GAT Dangerous Minds 2:30, 5, 7:30, 9:45 GORDON The Young Poisoner's Handbook 8, 10 ★ Citizen Kane 6 G.G. HOD 1–4 ☎ 5228090 Hod Passage, 101 Dizengoff St. CluelessFair Game 2, 5, 7:30, 10 ★ American President 2, 5, 7:30, 10 ★ White Night 2, 5, 7:30, 10 LEV 1-4 ☎ 5288288 Farinelli 12 noon, 2, 5, 7:30, 9:45 ★ Denise Calls Up 12:15, 2:15, 5, 7:30, 10 ★ White Men's Burden 12:15 p.m., 2:15, 5, 7:45, 10 ★ Georgia 12 noon, 2, 5:15, 7:45, 10 G.G. PE'ER American PresidentJadePassover FeverThe Haunted Soul 5, 7:30, 10 ★ Underground 6:30, 9:30 RAV-CHEN☎ 5262288 Dizengoff Center Seven 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 ★ Santa Clause 5, 7:30 ★ Lovesick on Nana StreetThe Net△Don Juan de Marco 11:30 a.m., 2:30, 5, 7:30, 9:45 ★ The Usual Suspects 9:45 RAV-OR 1-5 ☎ 5102674 Opera House Smoke Desperadoin the Bleak Midwinterll Postino Unstrung Heroes 5, 7:30, 9:45 G.G. SHAHAF 1-2 The Tie That Binds 7:30, 10 G.G. TAYELET 1-3 ☎ 5177952 2 Yona Hanavi St. Something To Talk AboutPassover FeverGolden Eye 7:15, 10 G.G. TEL AVIV ☎ 5281181 65 Pinsker St. Sudden DeathJadeFair Game 5, 7:30, 10 TEL AVIV MUSEUM ☎ 6961297 27 Shaul Hamelekh Boulevard Once Were Warriors 5, 8, 10
HAIFA
CINEMA CAFÉ AMAMI ☎ 325755 Underground 6:30 ★ The Bridges of Madison County 7, 9:15 ★ Smoke 9:30 **ATZMON 1-5** ☎ 673003 Fair GameJadeDenise Calls Up 4:30, 7, 9:15 ★ Golden Eye 4:15, 6:45, 9:15 ★ White Men's Burden 4:30, 7, 9:15 ★ Sudden Death 4:30, 7, 9:30 **CINEMA CAFÉ MORIAH** ☎ 242477 The Haunted Soul 7:15, 9:30 **CINEMATHEQUE** Vote Vote Vote Nigel Barton 9:30 **ORLY** Jefferson in Paris 7, 9:15 **PANORAMA 1-3**☎ 382020 Clueless 4:30 ★ American PresidentA Something To Talk About 4:30, 7, 9:30 ★ A Man of No Importance 7, 9:30 RAV-GAT 1-2 ☎ 674311 [OS] Seven 4:30, 7, 9:15 ★ Father of the Bride II 4:45, 7, 9:15 RAV-MOR 1-7 ☎ 8416899/8 [OS] White Men's Burden 4:45, 7, 9:15 ★ Jefferson in Paris 4:30,7, 9:15 ★ Father of the Bride II 4:30, 7, 9:15 ★ The Usual Suspects 4:45, 7, 9:15 ★ Il Postino 4:45, 7 ★ Seven 4:30, 7, 9:15 ★ Desperado 9:15 RAV-OR 1-3 ☎ 246553 [OS] Dangerous MindsThe Usual SuspectsUnstrung Heroes 4:45, 7, 9:15
AFULA
RAV CHEN Dangerous MindsFather of the Bride II 7, 9:30 ★ Seven 7, 9:30
ARAD
STAR ☎ 950904 Golden Eye 9:30 ★ American President 7:15, 9:30 ★ Clueless 7:15 ★ Fair Game 7:15, 9:30
ASHDOD
G.G. GIL Father of the Bride IISudden DeathWhite NightFair Game 5, 7:30, 10 ★ Seven 4:45, 7:15, 10 **G.G. ORI 1-3**☎ 711223 Jade Dangerous Minds American President 5, 7:30, 10
ASHKELON
G.G. GIL American PresidentFair Game Sudden Death Jade 5, 7:30, 10 ★ Golden Eye 4:30, 7:15, 10 **RAV CHEN** ☎ 711223 Il PostinoFather of the Bride IIWhite Men's BurdenDangerous Minds 5, 7:30, 9:45 ★ Seven 4:45, 7:15, 9:45
BAT YAM
RAV CHEN ☎ 5531077 SevenFair Game Jade White Men's Burden 5, 7:30, 9:45 ★ Dangerous Minds 5, 7:30, 9:45 ★ Sudden Death 5, 7:30, 9:45 ★ Father of the Bride II 5, 7:30, 9:45
BEERSHEBA
G.G. GIL Sudden Death Fair Game Jade American President 4:45, 7:15, 9:45
RAV-NEGEV 1-4 ☎ 235278 Seven 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 ★ The Usual Suspects 7:30, 9:45 ★ Dangerous Minds 5, 7:30, 9:45 ★ Mortal Combat 5 ★ Father of the Bride II 5, 7:30, 9:45
DIMONA
HECHAL HATARBAUT Golden Eye 8
EILAT
KOLNOA EILAT Fair Game 7:15, 9:45 ★ Mortal Combat 5 ★ The Ususal Suspects 7:30, 10 ★ Father of the Bride II 7:30, 10
HADERA
LEV 1-4 Dangerous MindsWhite Man's Burden 5:15, 7:15, 9:45 ★ Seven 7:15, 9:45 ★ A Goofy Movie 5:15 ★ Fair Game 7:15, 9:45 ★ Clueless 5:15, 7
HERZLIYA
COLONY CINEMA 1-2 (MANDARIN) ☎ 6902666 Il PostinoThe Usual Suspects 6, 8, 10 **STAR**☎ 589068 Fair Game 7:30, 9:45 ★ Jade 9:45 ★ American President 7:30 ★ Sudden Death 7:30, 9:45 **DANIEL HOTEL** White Man's Burden7:30, 9:30
KARMIEL
CINEMA 1–3 ☎ 887277 Dangerous MindsFather of the Bride II 7, 9:30 ★ Seven 7, 9:30
KFAR SAVA
G.G. GIL Sudden DeathFair GameDangerous MindsFather of the Bride II 5, 7:30, 10 ★ Seven 4:30, 7:15, 10 ★ American PresidentJade 5, 7:30, 10
KIRYAT BIALIK
G.G. KIRYON 1-9 ☎ 779166 Sudden DeathCluelessFair GameGolden Eye 4:45, 7, 9:30 ★ American President 4:45, 7, 9:30 ★ White NightJade 7, 9:30 ★ PagemasterAn Indian In the CupboardMan of the House 4:45 ★ Something To Talk AboutThe Net 7, 9:30 ★ Pocahontas *(Hebrew dialogue)* 4:45
KIRYAT ONO
MATNAS Something to Talk About 8:30
KIRYAT SHEMONA
G.G. GIL Sudden DeathFather of the Bride II△Fair Game 4:30, 7, 9:30
LOD
STAR Fair Game 7:15, 9:45 ★ Clueless 7:15, 9:45 ★ Jade 7:15, 9:45
NESS ZIONA
G.G. GIL 1–4 ☎ 404729 Fair Game Jade American President 5, 7:30, 10 ★ Sudden Death 5, 7:30, 10
NETANYA
G.G. GIL 1-5 ☎ 628452 American President White Night 5, 7:30, 10 ★ Sudden DeathFair GameJade 5, 7:30, 10 RAV CHEN Dangerous Minds 5, 7:30, 9:45 ★ Seven 4:30, 7:15, 9:45 ★ Il Postino 5, 7:30, 9:45 ★ Father of the Bride II 5, 7:30, 9:45
OR AKIVA
RAV CHEN Father of the Bride II Desperado Dangerous Minds 7, 9:30
OR YEHUDA
G.G. GIL Sudden DeathAmerican PresidentJadeFair Game 5, 7:30, 10
PETAH TIKVA
G.G. HECHAL Sudden Death 5, 7:30, 10 ★ Fair Game 7:30, 10 ★ Father of the Bride II 5, 7:30, 10 **G.G. RAM 1-3** ☎ 9340818 Seven 4:45, 7:15, 10 ★ American President Dangerous Minds 5, 7:30, 10
RA'ANANA
CIN-MOFET FarinelII 8:30 PARK American President 5, 7:30, 10 ★ Dangerous Minds 5, 7:30, 10 ★ Sudden Death 5, 7:30, 10 ★ Seven 7:30, 10 ★ Father of the Bride II 5, 7:30, 10 ★ An indian in the Cupboard 5
RAMAT GAN
RAV-GAN 1-4 ☎ 6197121 Dangerous MindsAmerican President 5, 7:30, 9:45 ★ The Usual Suspects 7:30, 9:45 ★ Santa Clause 5 ★ Father of the Bride II 5, 7:30, 9:45 **RAV-OASIS 1-3** ☎ 6739687 Seven 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 ★ Fair Game△Sudden Death 5, 7:30, 9:45
RAMAT HASHARON
KOKHAV ☎ 5491979 Eat, Drink, Man, Woman 7, 9:30
REHOVOT
CHEN 1–4 ☎ 362864 Dangerous Minds 7:30, 9:45 ★ Seven 7:15, 9:45 ★ Father of the Bride II 7:30, 9:45 ★ White Man's Burden 7:15, 9:45
RISHON LEZION
GAL 1-5 ☎ 9619669 SevenJade 5, 7:30, 10 ★ Dangerous MindsSudden Death 5, 7:30, 10 ★ White Night 7:30, 10 **HAZAHAV** Fair Game 5, 7:30, 10 ★ American President 5, 7:30, 10 ★ Father Bride.II 5, 7:30, 10 **RAV CHEN** ☎ 9670503 Seven 4:30, 7:15, 9:45 ★ The Usual Suspects 5, 7:30, 9:45 ★ Dangerous Minds 5, 7:30, 9:45 ★ Father of the Bride II 5, 7:30, 9:45 **STAR 1-4** ☎ 9619885-7 27 Lishinsky St. White Man's Burden 7:30, 10 ★ The Haunted Soul 7:30, 10 ★ The Net 7:30,10 ★ Lovesick on Nana Street 7:30, 10
UPPER NAZARETH
G.G GIL Sudden DeathFair GameFather of the Bride IIDangerous MindsJade 4:45, 7, 9:30 ★ Golden Eye 4:30, 7 ★ American President 9:30 ★ The Usual Suspects 4:30, 7, 9:30
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RAV-CHEN Savyonim Seven 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 ★ The Usual Suspects 7:30, 9:45 ★ Dangerous Minds 5, 7:30, 9:45 ★ Father of the Bride II 5, 7:30, 9:45 ★ Mortal Combat 5

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Supreme Court refuses to free Klingberg

EVELYN GORDON

THE Supreme Court yesterday rejected convicted spy Marcus Klingberg's request for early release, out of fear that if he were free, he might unwittingly reveal the top-secret information he possesses to Israel's enemies.

"This is an assumption that is hard for me to live with," said Klingberg's attorney, Avigdor Feldman, in response to the ruling. Many people are party to classified information that could do damage if revealed unwittingly, he said, and they are not behind bars. Therefore, he said, there is no justification for keeping Klingberg in prison unless he actually wants to create trouble – which the court agreed that he does not.

Klingberg, 78, was sentenced to 20 years in prison in 1983 for giving the Soviet Union information on chemical and biological warfare while he was serving as deputy head of the Biological Institute in Ness Ziona.

Klingberg appealed to the Supreme Court for early release on humanitarian grounds in July, after the Beersheba District Court had rejected a similar request.

The request was based on the fact that Klingberg suffers from a variety of illnesses, any of which could kill him at any minute. Klingberg is also no longer a danger to the state, Feldman argued, because, with the collapse of the Soviet Union, his motive for spying has disappeared.

Justices Aharon Barak, Eliezer Goldberg, and Dov Levine agreed that Klingberg's severe illness would normally be grounds for release, and cited a previous court ruling that "the court, in sentencing the guilty party to prison, did not intend to sentence him to life, and did not intend that the prisoner die in jail."

In Klingberg's case, however, humanitarian reasons are outweighed by the "genuine or almost certain danger" to national security which Klingberg represents, they said. Klingberg's illnesses have in no way affected his memory, the clarity of his thought or his speech, and the information he retains would almost certainly cause "incalculable damage" if obtained by a hostile party, they said.

The justices accepted Feldman's argument that Klingberg no longer had any desire to damage national security, noting that the state did not even contest this claim. However, they also accepted the General Security Service's estimation that information could easily be passed on by Klingberg unwittingly, in casual conversation, without his even realizing how much damage the particular item he was revealing could cause.

Since he cannot be prevented from speaking to anyone if he is released, there is no way to prevent this danger except by continuing to keep him in prison, the justices concluded.

"An innocent question from a guest is likely to elicit a response whose damage to state security would be extremely great, without [Klingberg] himself even being aware of the danger entailed by his answer," the justices wrote.

The justices also considered former GSS head Ya'acov Perry's estimation that the state could afford to release Klingberg, since the chances of him revealing any secrets were slim. However, they said, this opinion was contradicted by the entire rest of the security establishment, including current GSS chief Karmi Gillon and all the GSS department heads, and they had to prefer the majority opinion.



Police confront angry Ethiopians outside the Prime Minister's Office yesterday. (Brian Hendler)

IDF ordered to explain army imprisonment regulations

EVELYN GORDON

THE High Court of Justice yesterday gave the army 60 days to justify a regulation enabling soldiers to be held in prison for 25 days before being brought before a judge.

The order was issued in response to a petition by five military defense attorneys and the Association for Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI). The petitioners argued that the army, like the civilian authorities, should be able to hold someone for no more than 48 hours before he is brought before a judge. Any longer period is a severe infringement on the prisoner's rights, and violates the Basic Law: Human Dignity and Freedom, the petition argued.

At a hearing yesterday, government attorney Michael Blass asked the court to reject the petition on the grounds that the Knesset is currently considering the issue.

The government has submitted a bill limiting the maximum period of arrest before seeing a judge to eight days, and Law Committee chairman Dedi Zucker (Meretz) has submitted his own bill setting the ceiling at four days. From the point of view of the balance between the legislative and judicial branches, Blass said, it is very problematic to have both bodies considering the same issue at the same time, and possibly reaching different conclusions.

Furthermore, he said, while the army has not ruled out reducing the period of arrest to 48 hours, it cannot do so in one blow. The change must be gradual, to give the army time to beef up its court system, retrain its police, and make other necessary changes.

However, Justices Eliahu Mazza, Ya'acov Kedmi and Ya'acov Terkel rejected these arguments, and issued the show-cause order.

"The questions are important," Mazza said. "I don't understand why a soldier should be held in prison for 96 hours [four days] before the army even decides whether or not it will subject him to a disciplinary trial."

Furthermore, he said, a long period of arrest before seeing a judge can serve as "a gateway to arbitrariness."

For instance, he said, an officer could put a soldier in prison for several days without any evidence, just to punish him, and then release him on the grounds that the army has decided not to press charges.

Illness that goes deeper

COMMENT

BILL HUTMAN

THERE were many reasons to cry at the scene near Prime Minister's Office yesterday, and tear gas was just one of them.

There was the blood spilled in the clashes between the Ethiopian immigrants and police. The blood which was not good enough to accept for transfusions.

There was also the knowledge that the publication last week of Magen David Adom's policy of destroying blood donations from Ethiopians had only ignited long-smoldering resentments. Ethiopian immigrants already felt like second-class citizens. The blood-bank issue only drove that feeling home.

The general population looks upon Ethiopians as primitives. Their elders are depicted as uneducated "natives" who have nothing to offer Israeli society except for color.

Their children are treated little better. Often they are segregated in their own classes, stunting their integration.

Long forgotten are the spectacular missions – Operation Moses and Operation Solomon – that brought them here and inspired the nation and the world.

Now there are only excuses for what has transpired since. At least we could have hoped for originality. Absorption Minister Yair Tzaban tried to calm the protesters by assuring them it was not the Labor government, but the Likud, that set the policy of disposing of Ethopian immigrant blood donations.

The loud boos that followed came almost as a relief. The angry protesters recognized cynical pronouncements; they have heard enough of them.

"These people aren't supposed to act like this," many said. The "quiet" Ethiopians were acting out of character.

That was another sad lesson. The Ethiopians seem to have learned that the only way you get what you want is to shout and throw stones.

To make matter worse, police mishandled the demonstration. They were quick to use measures against the immigrants that they would have hesitated to use against other Jewish protesters.

At virtually ever major protest near the Prime Minister's Office, there is a rush by the protesters from the legal hillside demonstration site to the parking lot at the main entrance to the fenced-off compound. Normally, police try to physically hold back the protesters, and if they fail, allow them to move into the parking lot. Yesterday morning, Jerusalem police chief Cmdr. Arye Amit ordered his men to use tear gas.

Amit had expected a quiet demonstration of a few hundred and brought forces to match, only to suddenly find himself with a demonstration of thousands. Worried that the protesters would climb the compound's fences while the cabinet was meeting, he ordered tear gas when it otherwise would not have been used.

But by afternoon, it was clear that the protesters had to be met with force. They rained stones, blocks, bottles, and umbrellas on the policemen, and there was little doubt policemen's lives were in danger. They responded with more tear gas, rubber bullets, and stun grenades.

But to simply look for who was responsible for the violence would be a grave mistake. The protest was only a symptom of an illness that goes much deeper.

Histadrut officials won't get 6% hike

MICHAL YUDELMAN

THE Histadrut executive yesterday decided not to pay the 6 percent cost-of-living increment due all civil servants this month to its elected officials who earn more than NIS 15,000 a month, due to the labor federation's financial plight.

Elected officials whose monthly pay ranges from NIS 10,000 to NIS 15,000 will receive half – 3% – of the increment.

However, the executive did not propose cutting the 33% raise due to be paid those senior Histadrut officials whose personal contracts link their wages to those of Knesset members, ministers and other senior public officials. These workers earn between NIS 17,000 and NIS 60,000 a month.

Biran to head Oil Refineries

RACHEL NEIMAN and ON LEVY

OIL Refineries CEO Dr. Nathan Arad is to be replaced by OC Central Command Maj.-Gen. Ilan Biran, Energy Minister Gonen Segev has announced.

The appointment has not yet been approved by Finance Minister Avraham Shohat. However there is a "high probability" that Biran's nomination will go through. Oil Refineries deputy general manager Amos Shyari said yesterday.

Biran, 50, is to retire in April, and is expected to be replaced by OC Planning Branch Maj.-Gen. Uzi Dayan. However, sources said Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin Shahak has not yet settled the matter with Dayan.

Ethiopians petition court against MDA policy

EVELYN GORDON

THE umbrella organization for Ethiopian immigrant associations yesterday petitioned the High Court of Justice against Magen David Adom's policy of not using blood donations from Ethiopians.

According to this policy, blood donations from Ethiopians are thrown away, unless the blood type is very rare, because the incidence of HIV is 50 times higher among Ethiopians than among the general population, and the disease cannot be detected for six months after infection. For rare blood types, the donation is frozen for six months, and then used if there are no signs of disease.

The petition argued that this policy attaches a stigma to Ethiopian immigrants, and thereby seriously injures them and could even cause the general population to avoid Ethiopians.

Not only is the blood not used, the petition continued, but, to add insult to injury, it is placed in a different type of bag and labeled "From an Ethiopian – not for use." And, on top of this, the donors are sometimes given false medical reasons for why the blood will not be used, the petition said.

The petition noted that all of the immigrants were subjected to extensive blood tests upon their arrival, and most were found to be completely healthy. It therefore is not reasonable for MDA to refuse to use the blood of these healthy immigrants.

4 Jordan Valley kibbutzim to take action against land sale plan

DAVID RUDGE

MEMBERS of four Jordan Valley kibbutzim yesterday launched a campaign against plans by Finance Minister Avraham Shohat to sell some of their land as part of the kibbutz debt agreement.

As a first step they intend to stage a noisy demonstration at a meeting of the United Kibbutz Movement (UKM) on Thursday, at which Shohat is due to appear.

Jordan Valley Regional Council head Ze'ev Shore, who is supporting the campaign, said the matter is also likely to play a role in the Labor Party primaries.

Nearly 30,000 members of UKM kibbutzim have registered as members of the Labor Party and this could be used as a tool in the fight to prevent selling off the kibbutz land, Shore said.

The kibbutzim in question are Deganya Bet, Ginossar, Ha'on and Hukok. They learned at the end of last week that the finance minister intends to sell some of their land to the banks to cover their debts.

Na'amat says IDF treated soldiers like bar hostesses

MICHAL YUDELMAN

NA'AMAT, the Israel Women's Network and MKs yesterday censured the IDF for ordering 50 female soldiers to visit a British aircraft carrier docked at Haifa Port.

Na'amat's head Ofra Friedman and the Women's Network called on the chief of staff and chief women's officer to investigate the matter and explain why the visit, which was defined as a study tour, was imposed on women soldiers only and was held at night. MK Avner Shaki (National Religious Party) has presented an urgent motion for the Knesset's agenda on the matter.

Last week, a group of 50 women soldiers serving as teachers were given an order to visit the aircraft carrier just as they were preparing to go home for the weekend.

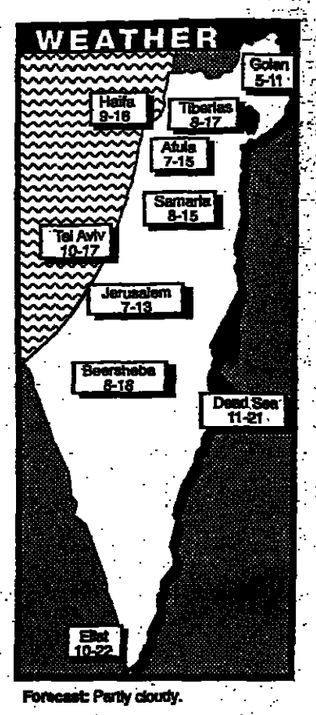
The soldiers said they were told it was a study tour, but were stunned to discover that after a 10-minute tour they were expected to act as "barroom hostesses. We were put in a bar with dim lights and romantic music and were offered alcoholic drinks. The atmosphere was cheap. We wanted to throw up. For two hours we were expected to provide pleasant company for the [male] soldiers."

The women soldiers said they got up after 10 minutes and left the ship, at about 10 p.m.

The IDF spokesman said the women soldiers were accompanied on the tour by a female officer with the rank of major. After the tour they were hosted in the ship's club and served light drinks and punch. They were offered to take part in a party on the aircraft carrier that night, but they refused and left.

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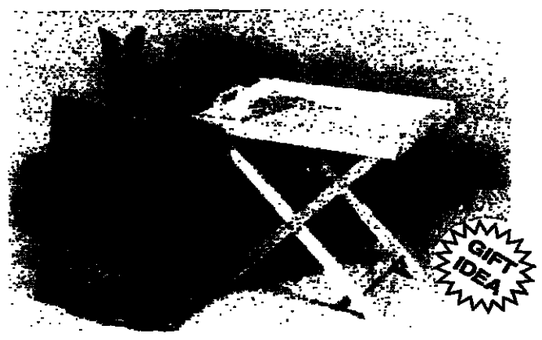
AROUND THE WORLD

	LOW C	LOW F	HIGH C	HIGH F	
Amsterdam	-06	21	03	37	clear
Berlin	-09	16	-06	23	cloudy
Buenos Aires	18	66	24	75	clear
Cairo	09	48	24	75	clear
Chicago	-14	07	-05	23	clear
Copenhagen	-10	14	-02	28	clear
Frankfurt	-05	23	-01	30	cloudy
Geneva	00	32	03	37	cloudy
Helsinki	-20	-04	-16	03	cloudy
Hong Kong	14	57	17	63	cloudy
Lisbon	10	50	14	57	cloudy
London	00	32	02	36	cloudy
Los Angeles	13	55	17	63	pcloudy
Madrid	05	41	10	50	rain
Moscow	-18	00	-05	23	clear
New York	-02	28	12	54	clear
Paris	-01	30	03	37	clear
Rome	07	45	13	55	clear
Stockholm	-08	18	-06	21	cloudy
Sydney	20	68	27	81	clear
Tokyo	03	37	09	48	clear
Toronto	-09	16	07	45	pcloudy
Vienna	-06	21	-02	28	snow

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